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FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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PALESTINIANS CLAIM CREDIT FOR TEL AVIV EXPLOSION

JN011604Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] The Palestinian fighters detonated their explosive charges in two neighboring houses of the enemy intelligence officers in [name indistinct] quarter in the heart of Tel Aviv, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and fully destroying the two houses. Other material damage was also inflicted.

This was announced by the military spokesman of the Palestinian revolution forces in a statement he made this morning. The statement says: Upon instructions and in accordance with plan, special group 8 operating inside the occupied homeland moved this morning, 1 March 1978, successfully reached its targets inside the city of Tel Aviv and placed highly explosive charges inside two neighboring houses of the enemy intelligence officers in [name indistinct] area, which is one of the northern quarters of Tel Aviv. The group proceeded according to instructions, avoiding all barriers and security measures set up and taken by the enemy inside the city out of fear of the operations of our fighters. At 0810 today the charges went off on time inside the two houses. The sound of the explosion was heard throughout the area. Following the explosion, ambulances, police forces, border guard and Zionist rescue forces rushed to the scene of the explosion and began their rescue operations of the settlers from beneath the debris. Ambulances were seen transporting the dead and wounded. Enemy casualties are well over 10 enemy members killed or wounded. As for the enemy material losses, they are: the full destruction of the two houses, damage to several cars parked in the area of the explosion and the destruction of the windowpanes of most neighboring buildings.

THREE ISRAELI AGENTS REPORTEDLY SLAIN IN WEST BANK

NC020922Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 2 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 2 March--According to an informed Palestinian source, Palestinian fedayeen groups operating in the occupied Arab territories--acting on orders from the Palestinian leadership--have liquidated three Israeli agents in Jericho, Jerusalem and Ramallah. The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB, which publishes the report today, says that the first agent, Muhammad Khalil Sabir, worked as a merchant in the town of Jericho, 7 km west of the Jordan River. He was killed 2 days ago by a Palestinian fighter after he had committed several crimes against the town's inhabitants as a result of his collaboration with the enemy. The second agent, Munir Jabri, was also killed in Jerusalem 2 days ago. The third agent, Shawkat Nu'man, was killed in Ramallah.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL ASSAILS SETTLEMENTS DECISION

JN271640Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brother Majid Abu Sharar, official in charge of the Palestinian information bureau and member of the revolutionary council of the Fatah movement, has affirmed that the decision of the Zionist enemy's government to continue establishing settlements on the occupied West Bank has proved the failure of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's attempts to reach a settlement with Israel.

In a statement to Reuters, Brother Abu Sharar said: The decision is no surprise to us because we never expected the Zionist Knesset to amend its policy except by force. He added: Israel's insistence on continuing with these illegal settlements is obviously a serious blow to efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region.

Brother Majid Abu Sharar concluded his statement by saying: From the beginning we said that As-Sadat's initiative is destined to failure. Today the Zionist Knesset has proved it, and sooner or later As-Sadat has to admit it.

PLO APPOINTS NEW OFFICE DIRECTOR IN PEKING

JN271720Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] At its meeting yesterday, the PLO Executive Committee decided to appoint brother At-Tayyib 'Abd ar-Rahim, director general of the broadcasting service of the Voice of Palestine, voice of the Palestinian revolution, as director of the PLO office in the People's Republic of China.

The PRC Government has welcomed At-Tayyib as director extraordinary [as heard] of the PLO office there. The Fatah Central Committee had unanimously decided at its last meeting to entrust brother At-Tayyib 'Abd ar-Rahim with the tasks of representing the Fatah movement in Peking. Brother At-Tayyib is due to leave to assume his new tasks within the next few days. The broadcasting service of the Palestinian revolution, while bidding him farewell as a companion along the march of this broadcasting service since its beginning, wishes him all success in his new task of serving the Palestinian revolution and people.

PLO REPORTEDLY APPOINTS NEW REPRESENTATIVE IN CAIRO

NC270900Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 27 February--Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today reports that the PLO has appointed 'Abdallah al-Adhkari as its new representative in Cairo to succeed Ribhi 'Awad, whose return to Cairo has been made conditional by the Egyptian Government on his giving up his post.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti paper in a dispatch from Beirut says that the guard on the Palestinian establishments has been intensified and the number of patrols increased in the areas of the residences of the Palestinian leaders in the Lebanese capital since President as-Sadat threatened, after the Larnaca airport operation in Cyprus, that his government would return every blow tenfold.

SOMALI MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN ABU DHABI

NC250927Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 February--The Somali information minister has stressed that the Horn of Africa is currently facing a new colonial invasion aimed at controlling the strategic areas in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean in preparation for controlling the gulf area. At a press conference held in Abu Dhabi this morning at the conclusion of his visit to the UAE, the Somali information minister said the current war in East Africa is not between the liberation movements in Western Somalia and Eritrea, on the one hand, and the ruling regime in Ethiopia on the other, but between the Warsaw Pact forces backed by the Ethiopian regime and the liberation forces. Regular Soviet and Cuban forces are currently fighting the liberation forces, which have been able to defeat the Ethiopian forces and liberate more than 97 percent of the occupied territories.

The Somali information minister warned that world peace is being endangered as a result of the Warsaw Pact forces' intervention and Ethiopia's attempt to internationalize the dispute. He called on the world to act to bring about a just peace in the area by giving the right of self-determination to the peoples of western Somalia and Eritrea.

Explaining the latest developments in the Horn of Africa, the Somali information minister said his country will continue to fight alongside the liberation forces as long as Ethiopia refuses to give them the right of self-determination. He appealed to the United States to reconsider its decision to provide Ethiopia with spare parts for U.S. weapons. He said this decision is considered a backing down by the United States and will help Ethiopia and the Warsaw Pact forces to impose their control on the Horn of Africa. Concluding his press conference, the Somali information minister lauded the Arab aid to the liberation forces. He also denounced Israel's aid to the Ethiopian regime. The Somali information minister will leave Abu Dhabi for Pakistan today after a 2-day visit to the UAE, during which he handed a letter to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre dealing with the situation in the Horn of Africa.

ARAB JOURNALISTS HOLD CONFERENCE IN BAGHDAD

JN271756Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--The extraordinary conference of the Federation of Arab Journalists began its activities here this evening. Opening the conference, Qasim Hammudi, first vice chairman of the federation, expressed his confidence that the sun of a new dawn will shine in Egypt to herald the era of the masses and to restore to Egypt its regular pan-Arab heartbeat and widen its stream of struggle. Hammudi added that the Egyptian regime is walking away from the masses, falling in the trap of relations with hostile forces and retreating from the gains of the masses.

Hammudi further said: This is the character of As-Sadat's policy, which consists of retrogression and humiliating kneeling at the feet not only of U.S. imperialism but also of the Zionist enemy. Hammudi called upon the honest and committed writers to perform their vanguard role of improving the masses' understanding of the gravity of events and to mobilize the energies of the masses with a view to confronting the hostile forces. He also urged the conference to devote all efforts to the unity of the national and progressive Arab forces with a view to setting up a progressive Arab front based on the absolute rejection of settlement projects and on a comprehensive pan-Arab strategy. Hammudi stressed the importance of stimulating the federation's role in enlightening the nation about the perspectives of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plot and said: The stimulation of the federation requires the achievement of unity within the federation with a view to promoting its effectiveness to cope with the challenges facing the Arab nation. Hammudi referred to the extra efforts exerted to invite all the member organizations to attend and assume their responsibility. He said it seems that the difficult circumstances of the colleagues in Egypt prevented them from responding to the repeated calls for making the conference the only domain for the interaction of ideas in the service of the cause of Arab struggle and for supporting the march of the federation. Hammudi expressed the Arab journalists federation's pride in the stand of Egyptian journalists and confirmed the federation's high confidence in them and in the Egyptian people's struggle. Concluding, Hammudi called for making the 13th anniversary of the federation, which falls today, the starting point of effective action to entrench the unity and development of the federation.

KUWAIT

AS-SIYASAH CHARGES U.S. WAGING MONETARY WAR

LD011933Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 Feb 78 p 20 LD

[Mustafa Abu Libdah article: "The Price the Oil Countries Are Paying in the Worldwide Monetary War Now Being Waged by Brzezinski and Rockefeller"]

[Text] Swiss bankers are not alone in believing that the United States is now waging a monetary war within the entire capitalist camp. The oil countries also believe something like this. These countries are trying to do something but they are too weak politically to take an effective part in this kind of worldwide war.

But the international parties against whom the "worldwide monetary war" is mainly being aimed are West Germany and Japan, the two capitalist countries with the strongest economies and which, consequently, pose the strongest challenge to the U.S. dollar and exports and represent the biggest threat to U.S. domination of world markets.

For some time the oil countries have felt their oil revenues threatened by the fall in the dollar and have tried to find a substitute for it. But such a substitute is not easy to find and never will be for many reasons, some of which are political and others purely economic.

It has become evident that the U.S. administration, as a result of a political decision, wants the dollar to remain fluctuating and weak so as to give U.S. exports a marked competitive edge over Japanese and West German products.

Despite the daily complaints by the oil countries, the United States has done nothing to support the dollar. Because the oil countries are too weak politically to become involved in a worldwide war like this, and because any currency other than the U.S. dollar is incapable of taking the load of daily transactions reaching $360 million (the value of daily world oil consumption), the oil countries find themselves compelled to accept the losses they are incurring in the dollar war. These losses are not small when the oil countries find that the real price per barrel is $7 and not $12, the posted price. The reason for this is the fluctuation of the dollar coupled with other factors of an inflationary nature.

As for Japan, it has given in and accepted the U.S. political premise that it increase its annual growth rate, something West Germany has obstinately refused to do on grounds that it would harm the German economy and provide wide opportunities for U.S. exports in the international markets. This U.S. political obstinacy in the worldwide monetary war has reached such an extent that Washington has threatened not to attend the financial summit meeting of the industrial states in July if West Germany refuses to meet the U.S. request to increase its annual growth rate.

If there is any blanket explanation to the worldwide war the United States is now waging in the financial and oil sectors, it is to be found in the theory that Brzezinski and Rockefeller (who is visiting Kuwait today) believe.

This theory is that before the 1980's the United States should restructure the capitalist world in a way that will give Washington absolute leadership of the capitalist world and make Europe and Japan merely states in the new regime under U.S. leadership for a final confrontation with the Soviet Union to settle the question of world leadership in the coming generations.

ECONOMIC OBSERVERS SPECULATE ON OIL PRICE INCREASE

NC011942Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1833 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 1 March--The MENA correspondent in Kuwait reports that economic observers in Kuwait have interpreted the call by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait, for a meeting of the finance and oil ministers of OPEC member states to review the position of the U.S. dollar and discuss the question of the oil price freeze as tantamount to reviewing oil prices in light of the continuous fall of the dollar. As a result of the fall of the dollar Kuwait is losing more than 20 percent of its oil revenue.

These observers expect that in the next few days Kuwait will conduct intensive contacts with the OPEC member states to ascertain their views on dealing with the recent sharp fall in the value of the dollar. These observers believe that the amir of Kuwait's call for a meeting of the finance and oil ministers of the OPEC member states has given an impression that the recent discussions conducted by U.S. envoys and ambassadors accredited to the oil producing states--the most recent of which were the talks held by David Rockefeller, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank--have failed. Observers believe that this means that there are now three possible solutions: Either the OPEC member states adopt a decision to increase the oil prices by 5 percent--which corresponds to the fall in the value of the dollar--while maintaining the dollar as the oil transactions currency; or transactions will be in Arab dinars, based on the value of a number of foreign currencies, instead of the dollar; or the United States must adopt measures restoring the value of the dollar and thus preserving the oil royalties to the producing states because of the drop in the value of the dollar, which in some cases has amounted to 30 percent.

GOVERNMENT TO CANCEL, REPLACE ALL PASSPORTS

NC211544Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 21 February--A senior official of the Kuwaiti Government has stated that the government has decided to cancel all present passports and replace them with new, unforgeable passports. He added that the new passports will come into effect during the next 2 months, after samples of the new passports have been checked and approved by the specialized organs.

The Kuwaiti official stated this in reply to a question by a MENA correspondent concerning the measures to be adopted by the government in order to prevent recurrence of the use of Kuwaiti forged or stolen passports in terrorist activities. The Kuwaiti official noted that the government is following this matter with interest and is watching it especially closely following the discovery of a large number of forged Kuwaiti passports in the vicinity of the passports which were stolen from the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut during the Lebanese war. The Kuwaiti official said that three different colors of passports will be issued--diplomatic, ordinary and special passports--and that their paper will be manufactured and prepared in Britain and technically will be very hard to forge.

OMAN

SOVIETS, CUBANS REPORTEDLY ACTIVE IN OMAN DISPUTE

LD011941Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Text] The diplomatic editor writes: Well-placed political sources have received information that General (Kolyakov), head of the Soviet military operations in Africa--operating from Libya--paid a secret visit to Ra's al-Khaymah on 19 January after visiting Ethipia, where he attended a meeting with five Soviet generals who arrived by air from Moscow. The meeting was also attended by Cuban Defense Minister Raul Castro, some senior officers from East Germany and a senior military officer from southern Yemen.

The same political sources also said that a group of military advisers from an Arab North African state went to Ra's al-Khaymah in order to help it break the siege imposed by the Omani authorities on the Umm ash-Shahmah area, which is disputed between the two countries.

These sources also reveal that intensive contacts have been taking place in the last few weeks and are continuing among the gulf states to prevent the border dispute between the Sultanate of Oman and Ra's al-Khaymah from escalating and thus allowing foreign parties to interfere in it. The efforts of the gulf states are devoted to keeping the question of gulf security the responsibility of the area alone.

UAE

RADIO OF UMM AL-QAIWAIN BEGINS DAILY TRANSMISSION

NC020918Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0818 GMT 2 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Umm al-Qaiwain, 2 March--The radio of Umm al-Qaiwain, one of the UAE emirates, began its daily transmission this morning after 2 months of test transmissions. With this new station the UAE has four radio stations. They are: Abu Dhabi, Dubayy, Ra's al-Khaymah and Umm al-Qaiwain radios.

Sharjah radio had suspended its programs at the end of last year and linked its frequencies with the Abu Dhabi radio as part of a program to unify the information media in the various emirates. The inauguration of the new radio was officially celebrated yesterday. It will transmit on a medium wavelength of 354.6 meters and with a 20 kilowatt power for 9 hours daily in the morning and evening.

YEMEN--YAR

CONSTITUENT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ELECTS OFFICERS

JN011843Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Constituent People's Assembly held a meeting at 1600 today headed by brother 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, deputy chairman of the Command Council and chairman of the Constituent People's Assembly. At the beginning of the meeting brother 'Abdallah Nasir Anisi was elected secretary general of the assembly by majority vote. The assembly unanimously elected brother Isma'il Ahmad (al-Mudir) as adviser in the assembly. The assembly then discussed the other topics on its agenda. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the assembly will form the committees which [words indistinct] at its next session.

TEXT OF AS-SADAT SPEECH TO LEADERS IN PORT SAID

JN011206Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1021 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN/NC

[Speech by President Anwar as-Sadat to popular and political leaders in garden of Suez Canal Authority in Port Said--live]

[Text] In the name of God, in the name of all the Egyptian people, I greet you and hail this splendid effort, which I see whenever I visit Port Said. You all know that when the process of reconstruction began after the October war I gave absolute priority to the canal zone to compensate our kinfolk, sons and daughters in the canal towns who suffered the burden and bitterness of evacuation. They suffered this burden with honor and steadfastness through four successive wars in 30 years.

You cannot begin to imagine how I felt whenever I came here to Port Said, Ismailia or Suez--the three canal towns--in the days of the evacuation. You cannot begin to imagine how I was pained--living away from the kinfolk and homeland, living in a state of utter loss. There was a time when people even lost hope. Losing hope is the most hideous thing that could happen to any person. The people of the canal zone, the people of Port Said, Suez and Ismailia lost hope and suffered the bitterness of evacuation. It was for this reason that I decided that reconstruction here should be given top priority.

Then the canal was reopened in 1975. I was very determined to see normal life return to the three canal towns and to the people of the canal, who, as I said, suffered on behalf of the republic and of all Egypt. They suffered the bitterness of evacuation and of living away from the homeland and the soil. They endured all that with patience, resolution and firmness, which are the characteristics of our people.

Then what I consider to be even more dangerous than all this happened. Despair began to seep into their souls. It was because of this that I reopened the canal and gave my instructions on the return of the displaced people and the return of normal life. Today, I went through the streets of Port Said and met with the people of Port Said. I say in all sincerity and love that what I saw during my previous visits and during my visit today was smiles and love on the faces of the people of Port Said. This was the greatest reward, encouragement and support for me so we can all continue the march throughout our republic.

I then made my decision to turn Port Said into a free zone and studies began. In late 1975 I instructed the then minister of housing and reconstruction, Engineer 'Uthman, to start immediately on 1 January the process of turning Port Said into a free zone and later to rectify all that needed to be rectified.

The experiment began. It is an experiment about which I can say that I am proud of you, your work, your efforts and your performance. [applause] Some people in Cairo have tried to criticize this experiment or to minimize its significance or have tried to prove the experiment a failure. The best proof and greatest reply to all those is to let them come and see how Port Said is progressing from day to day, from year to year and from visit to visit. I can see a complete change, prosperity, effort and diligent work. I have said and I still say that absolutely nobody who has not suffered what our people and kinfolk in the canal towns suffered has the right to criticize. It is not their right at all since they enjoyed hot water and electricity in Cairo.

Sirens were sounded in Cairo for only 2 minutes all during the October war. This was because of the splendid planning we had drawn up before the beginning of the battle. This was also the result of the magnificent efforts exerted by our armed forces, particularly the air force [applause], under the command of Vice President Husni Mubarak [applause], who provided security to every part of the republic in addition to aiding the first strike and the magnificent heroic performance during the 17 days of the battle. Above all, and according to my instructions, Mubarak did protect the republic's airspace from end to end. As I told you, sirens were sounded for only 2 minutes during 17 days and there was no threat or inconvenience at a time when our people and kinfolk from Port Said, Ismailia and Suez were living in other areas of the republic under difficult circumstances. I was aware of these circumstances and had wanted to change them until the time when we managed to change them, praise be to God, both as a result of the battle your valiant armed forces had waged and as a result of your current performance which I see--the magnificent performance which is continuously progressing.

I would like my sons throughout Egypt to come here and see how man's efforts, incentives and hopes create all these miracles of reconstruction, progress and prosperity. You are making gains. I am happy and pray to God that you will make more. You are working hard and I would like all my sons throughout Egypt to follow the example set by your work and your splendid performance.

The battle today, after my peace initiative, is to insure that our performance in all fields of activity in Egypt matches the performance of our armed forces in the 1973 war and the recent performance of my sons, members of the shock force, in Larnaca. Despite all conditions, the treachery and treason, my sons did not leave the battle and they never hesitated to face the treachery and treason. They accomplished their mission and then faced treachery and shots in the back with magnificent heroism. They returned to their country, Egypt, after teaching all these small persons a lesson: that our hand will reach any place where an aggression is committed against any Egyptian, God willing. [applause]

They started a battle. It would have taken just a few minutes to accomplish the mission, namely, to force the two hireling murderers to surrender and thus save all the hostages. However, when they were surprised by the treachery and meanness of being hit in the back, the shock force members turned into a suicide squad and entered the battle. It is honor enough for our sons that they completed the mission in the face of tanks, heavy weapons and all this ammunition while being hit in the back and returned to us. Some were martyred and others were wounded, but their performance has elevated Egypt's dignity and name sky high. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, as I said, our battle today, after my initiative, must be directed toward reconstruction and production. What is required of us today is to direct all our resources and all our efforts, sweat and devotion toward reconstruction. As I said, you have set a splendid example here. Miracles are being created here only 2 years after I declared the city a free zone. The miracles will continue, God willing. I would like this to be an example for all my sons throughout the republic so their performance will be commensurate with what is happening here in Port Said.

As I have told you, we in Egypt, your people in Egypt are happy with everything that you have been able to accomplish. We wish you further successes and achievements. As I have said, today's basic battle is production and reconstruction. The most serious thing in this battle as far as I am concerned is food security.

Due to circumstances I do not want to return to, mistakes have been made causing us to suffer at present from a shortage in food production. We have land, we have water, we have the peasant and we have a suitable climate. What remains is only individual efforts. At one time the state and the regime disavowed individual efforts, individual performance and individual ambition-ambition which I see in its most magnificent form every time I come here to Port Said.

The state disavowed this. The result was that everybody became negative and wanted the state to provide him with everything--food, clothing, employment and shelter--without exerting any effort on the assumption that this is socialism. Unfortunately, we have suffered from this and I am still suffering today. Brothers and sisters, I will continue to suffer for the next 2 years, namely, 1979 and 1980--also this year 1978--in order to accomplish the programs which are being precisely implemented at present in accordance with the timetables set for them. I am personally following up the implementation of these programs. We will continue to face a difficult time until 1980 when we will actually attain a level of food production sufficient for all the people at acceptable and reasonable prices. Until that time, we should rally together.

As you know, today the tax law is being discussed in the People's Assembly. In one of my speeches to the People's Assembly, which you must have heard, I asked that taxes bring about complete justice, that is, that the long suffering should be lifted from those with low incomes and those with high incomes should shoulder burdens commensurate with their incomes. This means lifting the long suffering from those with low incomes and making those with high incomes shoulder the burden of their gains and of what they should return to the state so that we can live in the society which you heard me speak about. I will continue to cling to this society--the society of one family in which everybody feels and sympathizes with his brother.

In the coming years of suffering regarding our problems, particularly food security, there is no harm if we all suffer together and bear this suffering in complete equality, that is, those with high incomes shoulder and carry out their duty toward the state.

We must completely lift the burden from low-income brackets. We then must divide equally, selflessly and willingly what we have on a fair basis under which each individual would receive an equal share. In other words, no one should be more privileged than others because he happens to have a larger income than someone who has a smaller income. The burdens and suffering must be shared by all the citizens. If there is hardship in food security, we should share it. The individual with a large income must pay, and the one with a low income must be relieved of the burden and must be provided with goods at a price he can afford. As I said, we must all share the suffering.

For this reason I say from Port Said that all of our institutions must take this into consideration, particularly our constitutional institutions. I hope that the taxation law will provide complete social justice. I will personally see to it that it does. If, after the People's Assembly passes this law, I notice that it does not provide complete social justice, I will exert my constitutional authority in order to return the law to the assembly so that it will provide justice. When I speak about justice, you know that in last January's referendum, rather last February's referendum, the people voted to punish all those who evade taxes and to prevent them from assuming public office. In other words, people who do not pay their taxes will lose face and esteem.

Let us speak frankly. Since 1974, or since the announcement of the open-door policy and the beginning of actual implementation of this policy, there has been some imbalance in the level of incomes. As I told you, I do not dislike seeing anyone achieve his ambitions and hopes. All I ask is that each of us fulfill his duty toward the state and toward the Egyptian family.

There will be no more confiscations, custodianships or measures like the ones which used to take place in the past. Under no circumstances will I allow this to happen again. We have accepted being the society of the one family. However, there are some among us who try to arouse hatred, just as the gentry used to talk in Cairo about Port Said and how Port Said was making gains and about smuggling. They made a big case out of this matter. I think that hatred was behind all this. It was my opinion that those who had borne the bitterness and pain for all Egypt should be compensated. Why should they not gain and live comfortably when they lived for 7 or 8 years homeless in various parts of the republic under conditions which were at times substandard? There is no objection at all. But we must all cooperate to strike at hatred. For this reason, I am asking that the taxation law should provide for full social balance so there will be no reason for hatred, which is being used to infiltrate into the society of the one family--the society of the Egyptian family.

One of the first parts in the battle I spoke to you about--the battle of production, reconstruction and food security--is to begin establishing new societies so we will not confine ourselves within the narrow Nile Valley in which we live. We lived in this valley when our population numbered 3 million, 10 million, 20 million, 30 million and 40 million. Up to today we have been living in the same small area of the valley on which 3 million people lived more than 50 years ago.

It is necessary to begin establishing new societies, because this will also serve the cause of food security. As long as there is water and as long as land is available, why should new societies not be established and why should we not get out of this narrow valley to widen horizons where land and water are available?

Thus, we will be fulfilling two objectives: First, we will be establishing new societies in which we will avert the population explosion which we are facing within the narrow valley; second, these societies will be based on production--and production means that this country will indeed achieve prosperity.

You have heard about my upcoming tour which, God willing, I will begin next week in order to find sites for the new societies we must initiate. As you know, we have begun with the 10 Ramadan City on the Cairo-Ismailia road. Work on this city is in progress and is proceeding as well as possible. I am personally following up on this work. There are also several localities throughout the republic in the places I will visit, because the area of cultivated land cannot now be limited to 6 million feddans as it has been for 50 years. For 50 years our arable land has occupied an area of 6 million feddans only. We are now 40 million people. When we were only 3 million people, they were then cultivating 6 million feddans. A population of 3 million people was cultivating 6 million feddans. Now we are 40 million people, and we still cultivate only 6 million feddan. Even worse, at times parts of the arable land have been parceled off for other projects. No, we have millions of feddan in the western desert and to the south of the Western Desert. We also have water. God willing, my upcoming trip will aim at putting in process a large-scale invasion of the desert.

Before I begin this invasion, I have pinpointed the places I will visit in light of the research and study conducted by the ministers concerned. These studies were compiled by the prime minister, and he has sent them to me because preparations for this tour were begun a long time ago. Even before I made my trips for my initiative, I had met with the prime minister and the ministers concerned. When I returned, I found all the studies I had requested ready so that, God willing, I could begin this invasion of the desert. As construction here in your area has been based on the individual, I also want this "desertification" to be based on the individual, namely, on the Egyptian man, and on his strength, efficiency and ambition.

Therefore, I find all the prerequisites available, namely, water--and water is life. I have water. I will link up the communications route--and in doing this I need not build all the roads because these can be the usual dirt roads. However, we have water. When roads become available, I will immediately call on my graduate sons throughout the republic to proceed to these places to begin a heroic action, just as several states of the world before us have built themselves up. Their peoples did not wait for their states to do everything for them. The state cannot do everything. Absolutely not. The state can indeed provide the basics, but it is imperative for work, efforts and sweat--honored by God Almighty--to be offered so that every human being proves himself. When every human being proves himself, this will mean the total fulfillment of our objectives and the achievement of prosperity for Egypt. This will be Egyptian prosperity, because Egypt's prosperity is the total of the prosperity of all the citizens. This will be prosperity for Egypt, unlike the past prosperity which was enjoyed by a few people, or prosperity for groups who had enjoyed it. Even worse, and in the name of socialism, no human being could prove himself nor resolve his homeland's problem. I can prove this by pointing to the reason for the food and housing problems I am now facing. These problems were caused by the fact that the state had been burdened with everything.

Citizens wanted the state to supply the eggs, chickens, jobs and hope. They did not want to think, hope or have ambitions because they were told that to think meant to have ambitions and that this implied reaction, capitalism and so forth. [applause]

I will make the tour, God willing. When sitting with you here, it is time to tell the gentry in Cairo what you have actually done in 2 years through human efforts and the efforts of creative individuals. We have prepared a plan for the new societies which I am telling you about. The ministers helped draw up this plan. We sought the aid of foreign experts. We are still exerting efforts because I have ambitions in this regard. For example, I have in mind an area of 3 million feddans of land and the entire area under cultivation is only 6 million feddan. There is an area of 3 million feddan in the southern part of the Western Desert near Nasir Lake. If this area of 3 million feddan is cultivated in a modern way [sentence incomplete].

We are now in the era of building. We are using the most modern technology of the age in building. We never regress. As I have been telling you, there is an area of 3 million feddan. These 3 million feddan can change the future of Egypt up to the year 2000. I insist on exploiting them, God willing.

In addition, there are hundreds of thousands of feddan in all parts of the desert. The water is available. Why leave them unexploited? To begin this exploitation, we must set up centers in the middle of each group of these lands where the pioneers will go to work with us. They will actually be pioneers because they will be starting a completely new society in which they will own and live on the land.

These must be centers in each area. The government, I say, should provide services for such centers. It should provide services, veterinarians, doctors, tractors to till the land and agronomists to advise on crops and soil and the requirements of our plan. Each center will be in the middle of a group of the pioneers who will go to own the land, God willing.

I am happy to come to you today and tell you that you have proved yourselves. Help me to make your brothers prove themselves--not through the law, the imposition of taxes or guardianship or intimidation. Give an example to the gentry. I want you to subscribe a sum to the Nasir Bank in the name of the new societies so that I can establish the small villages which will serve the pioneers. Invest part of your income in the Nasir Bank. You will receive the profits but at the same time you will be providing enough to your brothers in Cairo to enable them to start their work.

You have accomplished in 2 years what no one believed possible to accomplish in dozens of years. [applause] You know that one of the foundations of democratic socialism or of a democratic system is to socially insure every male and female citizen of the land of Egypt against disability, illness, old age and death. Here, I refer in particular to the Egyptian woman. I am sad that there are still many restrictions that the Egyptian woman is suffering from. Therefore, the main principle or main aim of our democratic socialism is to provide social insurance for every male and female citizen. This insurance will cover the woman if, regrettably, she is faced with a situation where after 20 or 30 years she is abandoned by her husband and she has no insurance whatsoever. I will insure her, God willing.

However, I say to the People's Assembly during its current session that it must adopt laws to make the woman a total entity. This will not be contrary to the Sharia [Islamic law] as some allege or use as an excuse to try to frighten the reformists. No, this will be in accordance with the Sharia, the provisions of the Sharia. In the Western societies, they are applying the provisions of our Sharia with regard to the individual, woman and man, while we are not applying it here under the pretext that this is prohibitted by the religion. This is wrong. Wrong. [applause]

I hope that these laws will be promulgated during the current session, especially since religion is being misused maliciously and arbitrarily in an attempt to impose one's will and to humiliate.

I know of many cases where the mother and father have separated. As for the children, what happens is that [sentence incomplete]. The coming generation is the responsibility of all of us, not that of the fathers and mothers; it is the responsibility of Egypt because the future generations are the Egypt of the future. What happens is that the children are brought up in an atmosphere charged with agitation. One side exploits religion against the other. No, we want religion to be applied in word and spirit.

Religion is not to be used for deception or for trying to make the woman into a mere tool or a commodity. This is in no way stipulated in Islam or Christianity. There is nothing of this sort at all. The woman has her place. She represents half of society. It is the woman who will bring forth Egypt's coming gnerations, the Egypt of the future. The coming generations will be brought forth by the woman. Therefore, woman must achieve all her rights.

I am talking to you because we have many things to achieve. However, I once again stress the example I want you to set for your brothers and people in Egypt. I also stress your participation in starting the new societies, the new hope and the new pioneering role which we must initiate, God willing.

All of this involves something else that is splendid. I am not going to impose a law on you and tell you to give me so much of your profits. Never. I do not want to be like that. I have come here as the head of the Egyptian family who is responsible for the future of the generations. I have come to you to tell you that you have exerted efforts and have worked and that your work has been a splendid and excellent example. Participate with me as much as you can in order to establish the new generations for your brothers and people, sons of the Egyptian family. We will thus set the example, showing that incentive in the Egyptian family is not based on hatred. Never. The incentive is love, mutual responsibility and fraternity. The incentive in the Egyptian family is mutual support--all of us support one another and all of us will share the morsel equally until this morsel becomes very, very big and then each of us will take his due and even more than he wants because of increased production.

I implore God the Almighty to grant you success and to augment your successes. Every success you achieve is a success for values, a success for values because, as I have said, the basis of the attack on values was hatred.

Your success is a success for love and a success for values. Those who suffer must receive what they deserve to compensate for this suffering. Then they can participate with their kinsmen and brothers in the big family in the big battle of reconstruction. What I mean by all of this is to tell the gentry in Cairo that the family branch in Port Said says: I am contributing to the establishment of the new societies for the sake of mother Egypt without the dictates of law and without being forced. I am asking for this contribution as the head of the family.

I pray to Almighty God to grant you success toward greater achievements and successes. [Slogans of support for As-Sadat heard in the background] I want you to respond in a practical way and say to everyone that Port Said in the northern part of the republic shares in the feelings of the southermost part and will contribute toward the development of the 3 million feddan there. I hope God will let me live long enough to see this project through, God willing. [applause]

[Port Said governor] Here is a contribution of 1 million pounds.

[As-Sadat] I pray God to grant you success. I ask you to convey to every citizen in Port Said my love and appreciation. I am unable to truly express my feelings for their sentiments. I said that the smile of love and loyalty which I see on the faces of the people who have returned to their land and homes to build their country and revive their society is enough to make me forget the bitterness and pain.

I know the suffering you went through during the evacuation because I went through the same thing during my youth when I was homeless and escaping from detention and jail. Only one who knows how it feels to be kept away from family, home, homeland, friends and kinsmen can appreciate this. I am happy because, thank God, I see satisfaction on your faces today. This is the ultimate compensation which I want and I am happy with. I pray God to grant you additional successes here in Port Said and in all parts of your country, in the big Egyptian family. May God grant you success. Peace be upon you. [applause]

AS-SADAT, ATHERTON BEGIN TALKS IN ISMAILIA

NC011536Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The official talks between President Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton began in Ismailia at 1500 today. Participating in the talks on the Egyptian side were Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. On the U.S. side were U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts and Mr Alfred Atherton's aides.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state arrived in Ismailia at 1400 today. The radio representative has learned that Mr Atherton has with him Israel's reply to the Egyptian proposals regarding the declaration of principles for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem. The proposals are summed up in Egypt's emphasis on the need for Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied since 1967 and on the solution of the Palestinian issue on a just and lasting basis represented by the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

As-Sadat, Atherton Conclude Talks

NC011608Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Ismailia, 1 March--The talks between President Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton ended at 1620 today. The meeting lasted 80 minutes. After the meeting Atherton expressed his thanks to President as-Sadat for giving him this opportunity to meet and hold talks with him. He said that he found the president, as usual, interested in the continuation of the peacemaking process.

Atherton said that he briefed President as-Sadat on the results of the talks he held with the Israeli officials in Jerusalem and his talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. Atherton added that he will return to Jerusalem tonight and is expected to return to Cairo again next week.

Asked about the recent statement by Menahem Begin on Israel's readiness to resume direct talks with Egypt, Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that he does not know. He added that this may take place in the future. The foreign minister said that Atherton is currently exerting efforts with both sides and that Begin will soon go to the United States to meet with U.S. President Carter. He said: I think that there will be developments in the future.

Asked whether his mission has achieved anything, Atherton said: I do not want to go into details. We have held intensive and detailed talks, and it is impossible for one to measure the progress every day.

Atherton said: I am here today, and I will return again if events make it necessary. This means that the process is continuing.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, and on the U.S. side by U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts and some of Mr Atherton's aides. Atherton and his party have left Ismailia for Cairo.

Kamil, Atherton Resume Talks

NC011221Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1142 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 1 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton held a second round of discussions this morning. The discussions lasted 2 hours and were attended on the Egyptian side by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and the director of the foreign minister's office, Ambassador Ahmad Mahir. They were attended on the American side by Michael Sternor, member of the U.S. delegation to the Cairo meeting, and Atherton's legal adviser, David Korn.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said after the meeting that the discussions, which began yesterday, were completed at today's session. He added: We shall immediately proceed to Ismailia to meet with President as-Sadat.

Asked whether the discussions had dealt with the question of resuming the meetings of the Military and Political committees, the foreign minister said: Yes.

MENA has learned that the Egyptian proposals concentrate on the six points President as-Sadat mentioned in his speech in Jerusalem, particularly those connected with the rights of the Palestinian people, total withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, especially from the Golan Heights and the West Bank, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Egypt Redrafts Israeli Plan

NC020748Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0723 GMT 2 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 March--AL-AHRAM reports today that Egypt has redrafted the provisions of the Israeli plan to read that withdrawal must take place from all territories Israel has occupied, including the West Bank and Gaza, and that the right of the Palestinian people to determine their fate must be guaranteed. The paper says that the Egyptian proposals concentrate on the six points President as-Sadat announced in his speech in Jerusalem, particularly those connected with the rights of the Palestinian people.

Atherton Leaves for Israel

NC011658Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1648 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo at 1745 for Israel carrying with him the Egyptian viewpoints on the declaration of principles. Atherton arrived in Cairo airport at 1700 from Ismailia and was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, who saw Atherton off. Atherton's visit to Egypt lasted 1 day and is part of his shuttle visits of the area.

GHALI RECEIVES FORMER EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS

NC011315Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met today with the former Egyptian ambassador to Cyprus, Hasan Shash. During the meeting they discussed and reviewed the recent events which took place in Cyprus in regard to the assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i, the attack on the Egyptian commando force and the subsequent severance of relations between the two countries.

GHALI MEETS WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR MORRIS

NC011923Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met tonight with British Ambassador in Cairo Willie Morris to discuss the agreement under which Britain will look after Cyprus' interests in Egypt.

OPPOSITION CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT FOR LARNACA

NC011840Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1755 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--The Egyptian leftwing opposition today criticized the government for sending a shock force unit to Cyprus to free the hostages at Larnaca airport and to arrest the two terrorists who took hostages after killing Egyptian writer Yusuf as-Siba'i. The weekly AL-AHALI, organ of the party, reports in its latest edition that the leftist party holds the government responsible for the incident in which 15 Egyptian soldiers were killed by the Cyprus National Guard while attempting to free the hostages and calls upon the government to resign.

In a report on the parliamentary debate of the Laranca events, the paper says that one of the two deputies of the party declared during the debate that there was a lack of coordination between the Cyprus and the Egyptian authorities. The paper says that for the safety of the Egyptian shock force unit the operation should not have been carried out without the approval of the Cyprus Government.

In an editorial, the paper also attacks those who are stirring up hostile feelings against the Palestinians in the country because the murderers are Palestinians.

In another article, the paper calls for the resumption of relations with extremist Arab states. The paper also criticizes Egypt's complete reliance upon the United States. The paper regrets the fact that Egypt is giving military aid to Somalia while Egypt does not have enough arms for itself.

AS-SADAT RETURNS TO ISMAILIA FROM PORT SAID

NC011525Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat returned to Ismailia from Port Said at 1410 today after having met with the political, popular and executive leaders of the Port Said Province. He was accompanied by Vice President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Mamduh Salim.

AL-AKHBAR DEFENDS TREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS

NC0108000Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 March--AL-AKHBAR says: Egypt has given everything to the sons of Palestine. Egypt has been more than a homeland to them. It has welcomed and treated them well and has shown them sympathy. They enjoyed more rights than the Egyptians themselves and they were not burdened with any duties. The word Palestinian was in itself a certificate giving status to the sons of Palestine.

The paper then lists the privileges the sons of Palestine enjoyed in Egypt. These privileges included the right to education in schools and universities and the right to occupy official posts and to engage in business without being tied down by any restrictions or considerations. They even enjoyed full freedom of movement and travel.

AL-AKHBAR then says: Egypt, on the other hand, has been burned, forced to lead a life of hardships and to receive blows because of its struggle for Palestine and the rights of the people of Palestine. The paper goes on: Egypt is the only one which has created an entity for the Palestinians. It alone established a legal presence for Fatah and other organizations in the Arab and international arenas.

AL-AKHBAR adds: Egypt did all this without expecting thanks or praise. What Egypt has done is to discharge an historic duty and responsibility to which it was committed and to which it still is committed. The only thing Egypt wants is that the sons of Palestine should have an entity and a homeland. However, it has become clear that those who champion Palestinian action do not want a homeland or entity for the Palestinians and that they are the leaders of professional criminal gangs and are not ashamed to practice this terrorism and hired crime against Egypt itself.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR says: Egypt, in canceling the Palestinian privileges, is not giving up the duty which it has undertaken--the struggle for Palestine and the rights of the Palestinian people--but is protecting itself from these gangs, which have taken terrorism and crime as a profession, and is even protecting these gangs from the criminal gangsterism to which they have stooped. Palestine is no longer something which interests them. What interests them is being gangsters and being boisterous in cabarets.

AL-AKHBAR EDITOR QUESTIONS PLO'S TACTICS

LD281240Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Feb 78 pp 1,9 LD

[Chief editor Musa Sabri article: "What Do You Want?"]

[Excerpts] It has been reported that the Palestine news agency [WAFA], the PLO's official organ, has published a commentary, which was also published in the newspaper FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH, also a PLO organ, which said the following:

President as-Sadat's speech before the shock troops reflects a mad campaign hostile to the Palestinians.

The Egyptian media are now trying to make Egypt shed all its national and pan-Arab commitments;

That we are trying to abandon the so-called Palestinian burden and that this has been an American demand and, most probably, a U.S.-Israeli requirement;

The Egyptian press is waging a vicious campaign against the Palestinian struggle by hired writers such as Musa Sabri.

If we were to leave our emotions and feelings aside, if we completely forget that Yusuf as-Siba'i, who devoted his life to Palestine and enabled the PLO to join AAPSO, was assassinated by Palestinian cowards, and if we deny completely reports by international correspondents and the world press that a suicide PLO unit took part in the attack against the shock troops heroes in Cyprus and if we suppose that nothing of all this happened and went back to the PLO stand before the crime, what would we find?

The first thing that we find is that the PLO said that Anwar as-Sadat is a traitor.

Then Yasir 'Arafat went to the Tripoli conference and joined hands with leaders of other Palestinian organizations such as George Habash and others, whom 'Arafat previously accused of being traitors and agents, and signed the statement that said that Anwar as-Sadat was a traitor.

Earlier Abu Iyad, the second man in the PLO, was addressing Palestinian youth and calling for the heads of Anwar as-Sadat and all those who support him. He also declared that one bullet is sufficient to do away with the peace initiative.

Previously a Palestinian organization, which we had never heard of before, declared that it was going to kill all those who went with President as-Sadat to Jerusalem. The organization then published pictures of the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers as wanted men.

Despite all this, President as-Sadat and every writer who supports his call for peace have been defending the rights of Palestinians to establish a state of their own. As-Sadat made such a defense in his speech at the Knesset and then in the Ismailia talks, which failed because of our principled stand, then in the Jerusalem talks, which we broke off for the same reason, and then again in As-Sadat's recent trip to the United States and Europe, in which he called on world peoples to support the Palestinians' rights.

Nevertheless, the campaign against us by the PLO leadership and the accusations that we are traitors and agents in a U.S.-Zionist plot is continuing.

Now a new element has emerged in the situation. Yasir 'Arafat has written to all the international bodies informing them that Egypt has no right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people.

Therefore, if you disallow us to speak on behalf of the Palestinian cause, if you accuse us of being traitors and if you demand our heads, why do you claim today that we are trying to abandon "the so-called Palestinian burden"--which is exactly what you say--and what does it mean when you accuse us of waging a vicious slander campaign against the Palestinian struggle?

You are denying all that we have offered for the Palestinian problem and the Palestinian people. You accuse us of treason. You say that we are agents of imperialism and Zionism. And you declare to the world that we have no right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people.

And yet when you kill an Egyptian writer who devoted his life to the cause of Palestine, we are asked to keep silent, to bless the crime and to hail this struggle.

You have left Egypt and turned to the Soviet Union. You, the PLO leadership, are free to do so.

But what did Brezhnev say 2 days ago as he was honoring Hafiz al-Asad, who hanged the Palestinians in a public square and whose bullets mowed down the Palestinians in Lebanon and yet he is now the ally and friend against Egypt?

Brezhnev said there is no solution without convening the Geneva conference--that is, direct negotiations with Israel. What else are we doing other than this? We are indeed engaged in direct negotiations in which we did not abandon our principles or give up a single right.

You, the PLO leadership, are allying yourselves with Hafiz al-Asad, who massacred you and who accuses Baghdad of being an agent. At the same time you ally yourselves with Baghdad, which accuses Al-Asad of being an agent. All these people are not stirring up anything for the sake of the cause. All they are stirring up is hatred for Egypt. These people and their new ally Boumediene are together under the trusteeship of the Soviet Union, and yet Brezhnev is calling for a Geneva conference, for direct negotiations with Israel.

The perplexing question is: What do you want and what path are you following?

You have lost the sympathy of the Egyptian people. This is a natural fact and not fabricated. Today we are being blamed by the people because we still speak on behalf of the Palestinian cause.

But--and I say this with deep sorrow and bitterness--you are losing everything. There are conflicts among yourselves, conflicts in the attitudes of every organization and exchanges of accusations between these organizations. You also cast doubts on Egypt's brave, honest and clear struggle. And, finally, there are the crimes of assassination.

Accusations are easy. You can accuse us without end that we are traitors and hirelings, but we will not deviate from principles, rights and justice, and we will always face responsibility seriously and bravely.

We make history while others only know how to distort history.

AL-AHRAM SEES CONSPIRACY AGAINST EGYPT

NC010805Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Egypt's Commitments," the newspaper AL-AHRAM says: The dimensions of the plot concocted against the Egyptian people and against Egypt's pride and dignity have now been exposed.

The curtain has now been pulled on the terrorist plan by the rancorous and agent forces, which are supported by Arab financing and by external and international designs against the Egyptian people and their patriotic leadership. The Egyptian people have now declared their pride in the heroic mission which was carried out by their armed forces. In view of all of this the government announced at the People's Assembly--out of a sense of full responsibility and national commitment--that Egypt will not be pushed into abandoning its pan-Arab and Egyptian commitments. The government also announced that it is now Egypt's responsibility not to leave those Palestinian people who are living under the yoke of the Israeli occupation as hostages of this big conspiracy.

The newspaper points out that Egypt has once again risen above the wounds and suffering. Egypt has reaffirmed that its struggle for the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people is a strategic stand. Egypt will allow no one in the area or outside it to exploit a temporary situation to undermine its insistence on the need for the liberation of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This is an historic, national and fateful stand.

The newspaper stresses that if some of those falsely claiming leadership of the Palestinian people have sold out themselves and their cause to the rejectionist front, they must bear the consequences of their stand. However, Egypt will always continue to differentiate between agent leaderships and a steadfast people in the occupied territories awaiting the hour of liberation.

Egypt will forge ahead in its course, affirming to the whole world that it does not accept anyone's custodianship. From a position of great responsibility, Egypt will pursue the plan it has drawn up to retrieve legitimate Arab rights, recover the usurped Arab lands and establish peace based on justice. As for those who have deviated from the correct course and have sold themselves out, it is up to history and their own people to condemn them.

EGYPT REPORTEDLY PLANS TO KIDNAP TWO TERRORISTS

TA020845Y Paris AFP in English 0815 GMT 2 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Kuwait, Mar 2 (AFP)--Egyptian authorities are planning to capture and take back to Egypt from Cyprus the two gunmen who murdered Cairo newspaper editor Yusuf as-Siba'i in Nicosia, press reports said here today. The daily AL-HADAF said Cypriot authorities had discovered that Egypt was planning the operation with the collaboration of the Cypriot extreme right-wing clandestine group EOKA-B.

The plan involved kidnaping the two gunmen, Samir Muhammad Khadir and Husayn Ahmed al-'Ali, and taking them to the Turkish sector in Nicosia, from where they would be sent to Egypt, the daily said. The Egyptian authorities reportedly made contact with the Turkish Cypriot administration and EOKA-B asking for help in the plan after the failure of the Egyptian commando attack on Larnaca airport on 19 February. Fifteen Egyptian commandos died in the attack, which was made to free hostages on a plane held by the gunmen, in a battle with Cypriot national guardsmen. As a result diplomatic relations were broken off between Cyprus and Egypt on 22 February. The two gunmen face death sentences under Cypriot law.

AL-BAKR RECEIVES IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

JN011111Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1033 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 March--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received this morning Abbas Ali Khalatbari, Iranian minister of foreign affairs.

During the meeting President al-Bakr received a copy of the Koran as a gift from His Majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Khalatbari also conveyed to President al-Bakr the Shah's greetings and wishes for happiness and health, as well as his wish for more progress and development for the Iraqi people.

The two sides reviewed various aspects of cooperation. They also discussed relations between the two neighborly countries and the means to develop them in various fields in the interests of the friendly Iraqi and Iranian peoples.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of interior, and the ambassadors of Iraq and Iran to the respective countries.

Meets With Hammadi

JN011520Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 March--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Ali Khalatbari, today discussed relations between Iraq and Iran.

Following the meeting, Dr Hammadi stated that the discussion during the meeting revolved around the basic issues pertaining to the protocols signed between the two sides in implementation of the Algiers agreement concluded in March 1975. He said that they also reviewed and discussed several matters pertaining to the implementation of the agreements and protocols and the parts that have already been executed. They also agreed to implement the remaining part as soon as possible.

The Iraqi minister described the meeting as constructive and useful. He said that the meeting was held in the same spirit of friendship that has bound the two countries since the conclusion of the Algiers agreement.

The meeting was attended by Mundhir 'Uraym, Foreign Ministry under secretary, several ministry officials, the Iraqi ambassador to Iran and the Iranian ambassador in Baghdad.

Received by Husayn

JN011108Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0906 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 March--Saddam Husayn, RCC vice chairman, received here today Abbas Ali Khalatbari, Iranian minister of foreign affairs.

During the meeting a discussion was held on relations between the two neighborly countries and on the means to develop them to their mutual benefit.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC member and minister interior, and the Iraqi and Iranian ambassadors to the respective countries.

The Iranian foreign minister arrived in Baghdad 2 days ago on an official visit to Iraq.

Minutes Signed

JN021240Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 2 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 March--Iraq and Iran signed here today the minutes pertaining to the work of the joint Iraqi-Iranian ministerial committee and to the agreement organizing the committee's work.

RCC member and Interior Minister 'Izzat Ibrahim signed the minutes for Iraq and Foreign Minister Abbas Ali Khalatbari signed the minutes for Iran.

The heads of the two sides exchanged the instruments of ratification of the agreements for cooperation between the Iraqi and Iranian ministries of interior, for tourist cooperation and for cooperation in the field of agriculture and fishery.

The ceremony was attended by the members of the Iraqi and Iranian sides in the joint Iraqi-Iranian committee.

BULGARIAN AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION SIGNS COOPERATION ACCORD

JN282136Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Iraq and the People's Republic of Bulgaria signed at the Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Ministry today minutes for cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural field. Iraqi Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Latif Nusayyif Jasim signed the minutes for Iraq, and Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Gancho Krustev signed the minutes for Bulgaria.

According to the minutes, the Bulgarian side will initiate work at (?Shahirzur) station and complete the work according to the timetable it submitted to the General Corporation for Soil and Land Reclamation. The Bulgarian side will also complete the designs of Ar-Rudwaniyah and (?Al-Quwayn) stations by 10 April 1978 at the latest. The minutes also provide for using an integrated group of Bulgarian experts to prepare designs for the irrigation and drainage networks and the pumping stations in Iraq. The tender for the construction of the pumping stations was won by the Bulgarian side on a competitive basis when the tender was announced. The Bulgarian side also submitted an offer for constructing 25 hectares of greenhouses in At-Ta'mim District.

The two sides agreed that the Iraqi Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Ministry will allocate 200 hectares as an experimental field for irrigation by sprinkling. In May 1978 the Bulgarian side will submit an integrated offer for this irrigation network.

The two sides agreed on the amended program for studies and designs submitted by the Bulgarian side for the irrigation projects and dams of the (?Al-Huk) irrigation dam project and [names indistinct] irrigation projects.

Delegation Concludes Visit

JN011116Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0906 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 March--Gancho Krustev, Bulgarian minister of agriculture and food industry and leader of the Bulgarian side of the Iraqi-Bulgarian joint committee, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad for home this morning after a 5-day visit to Iraq.

During the committee meetings which ended yesterday, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on the means to develop cooperation between the two friendly countries, particularly in agriculture. Krustev describes his meetings with Iraqi officials as fruitful and positive. He expressed his appreciation of the development Iraq has achieved in agriculture, particularly in irrigation, land reclamation, animal and crop production projects and the food industry.

PRESIDENT AL-BAKR RECEIVES KURDISH LEADERS

JN021218Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 2 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 March--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has stated that our people's new life of progressive and democratic concepts and practices has a place in the forefront of the march of revolutionary building led by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

This came during President al-Bakr's meeting with the secretary of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan, 'Abd as-Sattar Tahir Sharif, and the members of the party Politburo: 'Abdallah Hamid Rosbayani, Zura Darakhan, Majid Rashid Jabari and Ibrahim Tahir Salam, who presented a token present to the president on the occasion of the recent convocation of the party's 10th National Congress.

President al-Bakr asserted that evidence of the magnitude of the gains that have been scored in the economic and social domains in Iraq outlines the clear picture of the process of revolutionary transformation, accomplished through swift movement, joint struggle and common hopes of the nationalist and progressive forces to achieve more victories under the canopy of the 17 July Revolution.

President al-Bakr called upon the Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan to continue persistent efforts to strengthen the front's work and the formulas for alliance and joint cooperation among the parties of the nationalist front, so as to wreck the plots of the enemies of our Iraqi people and our glorious Arab nation.

President al-Bakr expressed his thanks for the present. He expressed his hope that the resolutions of the 10th National Congress of the Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan will be a new brick in entrenching the revolution's accomplishments and consolidating the self-rule of our Kurdish people.

VIETNAMESE ENVOY COMMENTS ON DISPUTE WITH CAMBODIA

JN011350Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 March--Hoang Duc Phong, Vietnamese ambassador in Baghdad, has assented that world imperialism and reaction are exerting strenuous efforts to drive a wedge in the unity of the people of Indochina and to create tension in Southeast Asia.

In a press conference the ambassador held at the embassy here today regarding the tension of the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, he said that his country is keen to preserve its cohesion with Cambodia and is exerting all efforts to solve this problem peacefully.

The ambassador explained that his country believes that the settlement of the differences between the two countries can be achieved through negotiations based on the spirit of cohesion among the nonalined countries against imperialism and in favor of the two countries' common interests and peace and security in southwest Asia. The ambassador expressed his country's thanks for the efforts by the friendly countries, including Iraq, to preserve the friendship and solidarity between the Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples.

PRIME MINISTER BADRAN INTERVIEWED ON PEACE TALKS

LD011800Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Feb 78 p 18 LD

[Interview granted by Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran to Yusuf al-Hasa'id and Muhammad Yusuf, AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM correspondents in Amman--date unspecified]

[Text] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, what is Jordan's position following the recent political developments and in light of what has happened and is happening?

[Answer] Jordan's position in fact is firm and well known; it is not secret but public. The statements which His Majesty King Husayn made recently were a confirmation of this position. Briefly, this position is that there should be a commitment for total withdrawal from all the occupied territories, foremost of which is Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people should be given full rights, including the right to self-determination after the withdrawal so as to decide their future with their own free will. This is Jordan's firm position which will not change.

[Question] Jordan is currently being subjected to pressures from several quarters in order to participate in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. Will Jordan participate and, if so, why?

[Answer] Jordan will absolutely never accept any pressure in this regard because its stand is based on the country's national interests and the national interests of the Arabs. As I said, Jordan wants a commitment by Israel to withdraw completely from all the occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem, and wants the Palestinian people to obtain their legitimate national rights. When this happens Jordan will then study the matter with its Arab brothers, including the Palestinians, to decide the course of action.

Prior to President as-Sadat's initiative, Jordan was in favor of a single Arab delegation to the Geneva conference. King Husayn paid several visits to Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and several gulf countries to call for a united Arab stand and for a meeting between the confrontation states, including the PLO, in order to lay down a clear policy that the unified Arab delegation to the Geneva conference should pursue. But conditions have changed, particularly since President as-Sadat's initiative.

[Question] Jordan is then ready to participate in the talks in case Israel pledges to withdraw and give the Palestinian people their national rights?

[Answer] Yes, Jordan will then be ready to take part in the negotiations; that is when Israel declares its commitment to full withdrawal, foremost from Jerusalem, and to giving the Palestinian people their national rights. Jordan will then not hesitate to begin negotiations.

[Question] The Arab nation at present is seriously divided and is exposed to grave dangers, particularly at this stage. Does Jordan have any plans or idea on how Arab solidarity can be restored?

[Answer] Frankly, Jordan has no specific plans to restore Arab solidarity. But it has and always had King Husayn's policy that seeks the creation of a strong Arab solidarity among all the Arab countries. The most recent example of this policy was evident in the unanimous stand when the Rabat resolutions were adopted and when Jordan asked that the PLO be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

When Jordan felt that there was an Arab consensus on this subject it approved the resolutions and adhered to them.

There is no doubt that achieving solidarity requires some time. It also requires joint efforts by other Arab countries because Jordan cannot alone be active in this field in view of the deep rift between the Arab sides. But Jordan feels that if coordinated efforts are exerted by all the other Arab countries, the present deteriorating Arab situation might improve. Therefore, Jordan did not lose hope of restoring Arab solidarity because it is convinced that this solidarity is the strength of the Arab nation. The Ramadan war has proved that Arab solidarity, which suddenly emerged during the war, had a far-reaching effect not only in the area but also at the international level. Some of the foreign observers did not imagine that Arab differences would be suppressed overnight and the Arab nation would stand united in the manner and strength it showed during the October war.

[Question] What about Jordanian-Syrian relations, particularly since these relations recently became somewhat lukewarm?

[Answer] Jordanian-Syrian relations are still good. Telephone conversations between his majesty and President Hafiz al-Asad did not stop and are continuing. The latest of these conversations was one on the eve of the Syrian referendum. Contacts between Jordanian ministers and their Syrian brothers are likewise continuing. Furthermore, the coordination that has been established between the two countries in the various fields still exists and is good. We continue to work according to it.

Some disputes and differences in interpretations may have occurred, something which happens even within the same group or party. Coordination between Jordan and Syria is a strategic objective because the Syrian front is a continuation of the Syrian front.

[Question] Recently--or, to be exact, at the Arab-African summit conference--a Jordanian-Palestinian dialog began but later stopped. Who was responsible for stopping it and will it be resumed?

[Answer] An open dialog did in fact take place when a PLO delegation came to Amman. It was a frank and positive dialog but developments in the area brought the dialog to a halt. However, contacts between the two sides did not stop. There are contacts on various levels between Jordan and the PLO, some of which were held in Cairo during the Arab-African summit between his majesty the king and Yasir 'Arafat. Contacts were also made at various levels, which goes to show that there has been no break in the dialog between Jordan and the PLO.

[Question] Why did 'Arafat not respond to the invitation to visit Amman? Is the invitation still in force and when will it be extended formally?

[Answer] As I have already said, messages are being exchanged between the two sides, and contacts between Jordan and the PLO are continuing. The question of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Amman does not represent any differences of view. When Yasir 'Arafat brought up the subject before his majesty, he told him: You are welcome. In my opinion such a visit will lead to positive results when better and more opportune conditions become available. I can assure you that there are unreported contacts between Jordan and the PLO which interests dictate should not be made public.

[Question] What is Jordan's attitude toward the Israeli plan to grant self-rule to the West Bank, and how do you view the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

[Answer] As I said at the beginning, Jordan stresses the need for commitment to total withdrawal and the giving to Palestinian people of their full rights, including the right to self-determination. I would like to mention here that the question of self-rule was put to the Palestinian people by the Israeli Government several years ago--when the Labor Party was in office--but the people of the West Bank and Gaza rejected it categorically. We do not want any solution that will entrench occupation. We proceed from the principle of total withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

As for the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations--if by this is meant relations after liberation--this question will be decided by the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. Because we are Arab citizens and are closely connected with the Palestine problem more than any country and because there are common ties and interests between the two peoples, we are more convinced of Arab unity than are any other Arabs.

I do not feel concern over the future of such relations since in this country we know well the feelings of both peoples.

[Question] His Majesty King Husayn raised his well-known slogan in which he gave Israel the choice between land and peace. It has transpired that the enemy wants both. What is the solution in your opinion?

[Answer] This choice is the only possible one for Israel to make since it must choose between land and peace. It cannot forever combine the two contradicting objectives. Peace cannot be established under occupation; occupation can never bring about peace.

As for the solution, the Arab nation, if it were to mobilize all its capabilities and resources, can within a specific period of time change the equation no doubt in favor of the Arab nation.

[Question] It was reiterated recently that secret contacts have taken place between Jordan and Israel. How true are these reports being circulated by diplomatic circles?

[Answer] There were absolutely no contacts between Jordan and Israel. World Zionist propaganda always fabricates such reports. Their purpose is well known--to damage the Jordanian position on the Palestine problem. Incidentally, we have often noticed, for example, that when a Jordanian official goes to visit the West Bank to attend his father's funeral, Israeli propaganda trumpets blare that a senior Jordanian official is visiting Israel and they deliberately distort the reason for the visit. And when we look for this official we find that he works in the Ministry of Health or some other government department. Thus we can say and even confirm that such rumors aim at harming Jordan's position in particular and the Arab position in general.

AR-RA'Y FAVORS NEW YORK CONFERENCE ON MIDEAST

JN020930Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Mar 78 pp 1, 12 JN

[Editorial: "The Return to New York"]

[Text] As we said yesterday, we will not anticipate events by proclaiming the failure of the mission of the U.S. assistant secretary of state.

However, all signs indicate that Atherton's attempts to put an end to the Egyptian-Israeli deadlock by means of formulating a declaration of principles have passed unnoticed.

It seems that the U.S. administration is convinced now, more than at any time before, of the futility of the bilateral negotiations. This is owing to the wide contradiction between the peaceful demands and Israel's expansionist objectives. Hence we can understand the new signs which several sides are making.

The first sign--the commentary of the Damascus paper TISHRIN which emphasized Syria's support for the efforts exerted to set up a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, irrespective of the source of these efforts.

The second sign--the statements of the U.S. State Department spokesman asserting that his country is not attempting to exclude Syria from the peace efforts.

The third sign--the report published by Cairo's AL-AHRAM about Romania's endeavors to hold contacts with a number of world capitals with the aim of discussing the possibility of implementing Waldheim's proposal for the convocation of a conference in New York to include the parties concerned with the Middle East dispute.

These three signs clearly indicate the failure of the efforts which have been exerted during the previous stages to convince Israel to accept the requisites for peace in the area.

If the New York conference has so far been seen only as a theoretical way out of the deadlock which has confronted the peace efforts, it also specifically constitutes a visible way out for several problems that have troubled Arab relations.

Jordan and Syria championed the initiative of the UN secretary general at the time as the best means to continue Arab and international cooperation for the sake of the future of the Middle East, international stability and world security.

Despite the persistence to continue the bilateral negotiations in the hope of softening the Israeli attitude and the failure to achieve any tangible positive result--and we can say that the negotiations have completely failed to introduce radical changes to Israel's arrogant stands--the opportunity still exists to strengthen and support the aforementioned positive signs with the aim of holding the New York conference. Yet it depends on the U.S. administration's taking a harder line toward Israel, if Washington does not wish to see itself, together with the parties concerned with the dispute, in the Israeli bottle-neck.

AGREEMENT MADE TO EXPAND VOLUME OF TRADE WITH EGYPT

JN011930Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A trade protocol between Jordan and Egypt was signed in the Industry and Trade Ministry today. The protocol provides for increasing the volume of trade between the two countries to $25 million, and increasing the capital of trade centers of the two countries to $2 million.

Dr Hashim ad-Dabbas, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, signed the protocol for Jordan, while Trade Ministry Under Secretary Yusuf Salah 'Abbadi signed it for Egypt.

BUTRUS REPORTS ON DAMASCUS TALKS TO SARKIS, AL-HUSS

NC011832Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] After the cabinet meeting today, President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting which was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign and Expatriates Affairs and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus. The results of the discussions which were held in Damascus were reviewed at the meeting. Minister Butrus gave President Sarkis a letter from President al-Asad.

Following the meeting Minister Butrus said: I have briefed His Excellency President Sarkis and His Excellency Prime Minister al-Huss on the details of my visit. I also briefed the cabinet. Replying to a question, Minister Butrus said: The application to renew the mandate of the Arab deterrent forces can be submitted only by the president of the republic and no state other than Lebanon can submit such an application. The president of the republic alone has the right to do this.

President al-Asad intended, following his visit to the Soviet Union, to send a special envoy to brief President Sarkis on the results of the visit. However, President al-Asad took the opportunity of the visit made by Minister Butrus to Damascus to brief him on the results of the Syrian-Soviet talks so that Minister Butrus would convey them to President Sarkis.

CABINET MEETS; JOINED BY BUTRUS UPON RETURN

NC011432Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] The cabinet has met under President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis. The prime minister and the other ministers attended. Foreign and Defense Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus joined the meeting at 1200 immediately upon returning from Damascus. The cabinet discussed a number of questions and the topics on its agenda and made a number of decisions.

MENA: PALESTINIAN OFFICES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON CLOSED

NC011255Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 1 March--The Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Parties and Forces has announced implementation of measures to close down the Palestinian organizations' offices and end the armed manifestations in the cities of Sidon, Tyre and An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon. In a statement issued today the council says that these measures will put an end to all individual violations and transgressions which have been cause for complaint. The council emphasized that this has been done in agreement with the Palestinian resistance command.

It has also been learned that elements of the As-Sa'iqah organization and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command have returned to the Ar-Rashidiyah, Burj ash-Shamal and Al-Bass camps in the suburbs of the city of Tyre. The return of the two organizations to the Tyre camps follows 6 months of negotiations between the leaders of the two organizations and the PLO on the one side and the rejectionist front on the other. Yasir 'Arafat intervened more than once to get the approval of the Palestinian organizations, particularly the rejectionist organizations, for this measure. The two organizations were expelled from the Tyre camps after several armed clashes.

LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

JN011400Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, received in his office this morning Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister. The meeting lasted 1 hour after which Butrus left Damascus for Beirut at the end of a 2-day visit to Syria. During the visit he met with His Excellency President Hafiz Al-Asad and held discussions with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Fu'ad Butrus praised the efforts being exerted by Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad to restore security and calm to Lebanon.

In a statement prior to leaving Damascus for Beirut, Butrus said: I felt during my visit to fraternal Syria and during my discussions in Damascus the concern of the Syrian officials led by President Hafiz al-Asad to preserve Lebanon's unity, help it overcome its painful tribution, and provide support and assistance to the legitimate authorities in Lebanon under the leadership of His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis.

Butrus further added: My visit to Damascus was one of a series of meetings at the highest levels between officials of the two fraternal countries--Syria and Lebanon. The meetings were made necessary because of the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and because of the circumstances in Lebanon and the situation in the Middle East. He also stated: When I conveyed a message from President Ilyas Sarkis to President al-Asad, there was an opportunity to discuss all aspects of the situation in Lebanon and to exchange viewpoints on all issues under discussion so as to consolidate security in Lebanon and continue the peace process which is supported by Syria. Butrus added that during the meeting they also reviewed the role of the Arab deterrent forces in consolidating security and calm in Lebanon. He also said that President al-Asad stressed during their meeting yesterday that everything pertaining to the subject of the Arab deterrent forces and the subject of renewing their mandate is a matter for President Sarkis alone in accordance with well-known resolutions. President Hafiz al-Asad also stressed that if President Ilyas Sarkis puts forward a request to renew the mandate, Syria will study this from the angle of Lebanon's interest and what is dictated by Lebanon's circumstances. Butrus said that President al-Asad had requested him to convey a verbal message to President Ilyas Sarkis.

Butrus concluded his statement by greeting and thanking the Syrian officials led by President Hafiz al-Asad for the interest they are showing in seeing security, calm and stability restored to Lebanon.

SED DELEGATION MEETS WITH AL-ASAD, 'ARAFAT

LD012337Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 2139 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus--Hafiz al-Asad, Secretary General of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and President of Syria, on Wednesday received an SED delegation led by Paul Verner, member of the politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, now visiting Syria. The GDR delegation head paid tribute to Syria's consistent anti-imperialist attitude as well as to the action program agreed by the progressive Arab states and the PLO at the conferences in Tripoli and Algiers.

Paul Verner assured Hazif al-Asad of the GDR's unbreakable solidarity with the just struggle of the Arab peoples for regaining the Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and for realizing the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine. The GDR will continue to take a determined stand for a lasting and just solution of the Middle East conflict within the framework of the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference with the participation of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Pointing to the dangerous activities by the opponents of detente and the stepped-up arms drive by NATO, Paul Verner stressed the need for further strengthening the alliance of all anti-imperialist forces in order to make the detente process irreversible and extend it to further parts of the world.

Paul Verner affirmed the determination of the GDR party and state leadership to continue to develop the relations of friendship and anti-imperialist solidarity with Syria in all spheres.

President al-Asad paid tribute to the close and friendly relations between Syria and the GDR. He noted that they had developed steadily during the past few years to the benefit of both peoples and states. The president explained his country's position on the solution of the Middle East conflict and other international questions. He declared that Syria strongly rejected all partial and separate solutions desired by imperialism. Syria, too, President al-Asad said, supports the efforts of the socialist states for detente and disarmament throughout the world. He condemned the inhuman plans of imperialist circles to manufacture the neutron bomb.

The Syrian president drew attention to the close friendly relations between his country and the USSR. As well as with the other countries of the socialist community. These relations have been further deepened and strengthened by the recent Syrian-Soviet negotiations at the highest level in Moscow.

On the same day an agreement was signed on cooperation between the SED and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party covering the years 1978 and 1979.

The SED delegation led by Paul Verner on Wednesday had a meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, which proceeded in a cordial atmosphere, views on questions of mutual interest were exchanged. The exchange revealed the complete agreement of both sides on the path toward a just and permanent solution of the Middle East conflict. Paul Verner assured Yasir 'Arafat of the unrestricted solidarity of the GDR people with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine for realization of their legitimate rights.

Meets With Ba'th Party Officials

JN011805Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General, received this afternoon an SED delegation headed by comrade Paul Verner, member of the politburo, SED Central Committee secretary and member of the Council of State, which is currently visiting Syria at the official invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. The meeting was attended by comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the National Command and head of the Foreign Relations Office.

Comrade al-Ahmar and the members of the friendly delegation discussed the relations of cooperation and friendship between the two parties and countries. They touched on issues of common interest, affirming the importance of the bonds existing between them.

Comrade al-Ahmar spoke about the current situation in the Arab region and As-Sadat's capitualtory course within the framework of the imperialist-zionist scheme to reimpose the influence of imperialism. He referred to Syria's confrontation of these schemes aimed at liquidating the Arab issue, to Syria's steadfastness in repulsing these designs and to Syria's efforts to strengthen the Arab power and the world front to confront the machinations of Zionism and establish a just peace based on total withdrawal from the occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination and establishment of their independent

He said: The GDR firmly supports the Arabs in their struggle to achieve a just and lasting peace in the area based on withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the guaranteeing of the Palestinian people's national rights and support for Syria's stands. He extended thanks to the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, wishing further successes and progress to the Syrian people.

MILITARY DELEGATION CONTINUES TALKS IN MOSCOW

JN280933Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Moscow--Maj Gen Hikmat Ash-Shaihabi, chief of staff of the army and armed forces, and the military delegation accompanying him are continuing their talks with Soviet military officials. The talks are aimed at strengthening Syria's defense capabilities.

Major General Ash-Shahihabi and the military delegation accompanying him arrived in Moscow yesterday on an official visit to the USSR.

INFORMATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST ISSUES

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID Interview

LD281625Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 22 Feb 78 p 6 LD

[Ahmed Fattani undated interview in Damascus with Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr Minister, the Arab steadfastness front summit held in Algiers saw the birth of a new strategy linking the countries which embody the will of the Arab masses. In the light of the most recent decisions taken at this summit, how does Syria, for its part, envisage the future stages?

Ahmad Iskandar: When we speak of the next stage we must take into consideration the political resolutions made at the Tripoli and Algiers summits. This is the starting point, because in my view all our actions must be carried out in the basis of the principles laid down. Moreover, it is certain that great efforts will be made to insure that these principles are put into practice, thus reaffirming the wishes of a free Arab nation, and also to insure that all these resolutions meet with success. To this must be added patriotic acts capable of guaranteeing a free and worthwhile life for the younger generations in our nation.

Question: What is your assessment, Mr Minister, of the situation prevailing at present in the Arab Maghreb?

Ahmad Iskandar: Syria will support Algeria against any aggression or intervention, from whatever source.

Question: How do you envisage the future relationship between Iraq and Syria?

Ahmad Iskandar: We hope that our Iraqi brothers will respond to the call of Arab national and patriotic duty by ceasing specious arguments which have no place and which are aimed at justifying their aloofness in the struggle against Zionist occupation.

Question: Does Syria intend to campaign among those Arab countries which have not given their support to President as-Sadat's initiative?

Ahmad Iskandar: A platform of action was decided upon at the Tripoli and Algiers summits. As far as it is concerned, Syria will do everything possible to see that its duty is fulfilled and that these decisions are enforced. We are working to satisfy the desires of the Arab masses and establish the necessary conditions for warding off the dangerous consequences of As-Sadat's visit to Israel.

At the same time we are striving to create an Arab force capable of fighting effectively against the Zionist occupation and insuring victory in the battle for liberation. This will require sustained, concerted action in the political, military, economic, cultural and information fields. In our campaign we take all these aspects into consideration.

Question: There has been a sudden deterioration in the Lebanese situation. Some Arab sources are of the opinion that As-Sadat's visit to the United States will lead to a new form of intervention by imperialist forces in Lebanon in the coming weeks. What is your view?

Ahmad Iskandar: We believe that the American-Zionist plan, which As-Sadat is helping to implement, will attempt to create fresh difficulties by exerting direct influence on the evolution of the situation in Lebanon, thus repeating the crime which it committed in Lebanon following the signing of the 1974 Sinai Agreements, betraying the ideals of the Arab nation.

Syria is exercising vigilance and is ready to fend off all attempts at destabilization because peace in Lebanon is much more important to us than any individual or political faction in Lebanon. Anyone who tries to harm the Lebanese people and jeopardize the establishment of peace in this country will certainly be hit by the appropriate, effective reply.

Syria will continue to devote all its efforts to insuring that peace is established throughout the territory and that Lebanon flourishes once again in unity and respect for its territorial integrity.

Question: Do you envisage the possible withdrawl of Syrian forces which are at present part of the Arab deterrent force in Lebanon?

Ahmad Iskandar: The Syrian forces working alongside the other members of the Arab deterrent force will withdraw from Lebanon when the mission conferred on them to restore peace and security in Lebanon has come to an end. As you know, these forces are under the legal authority of the Lebanese government, and when these same authorities decide that the Syrian forces have accomplished their mission and that Lebanon is capable of managing its internal affairs by itself, instructions will be given to these forces to withdraw from Lebanon.

Question: As regards your assistance to the Palestinian resistance, do you envisage that your borders may be reopened to the activities of the Fedayeen?

Ahmad Iskandar: A plan of action has already been drafted and adopted. Besides, there is perfect understanding between Syria and the Palestinians as far as these matters are concerned.

We will not fail to make the necessary efforts to consolidate the Arab position in the face of Zionist occupation.

Question: Political observers consider that there is a possibility of an Israeli attack against Syria. If this happened, how would Syria deal with this threat?

Ahmad Iskandar: I can assure you that, in the event of an attack against Syria, our armed forces and our people, with all their talents, would be able to deal with it with great determination.

Question: What attitude does Syria intend to take toward certain Arab political regimes which have supported As-Sadat's initiative?

Ahmad Iskandar: Fortunately it is true that all who have supported As-Sadat's cowardly initiative only make up an isolated minority, who are contested in their own countries where they are supposed to govern.

Those who have supported As-Sadat cannot claim to be working either for the interests of their country or for those of the Arab nation.

Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Interview

LD172345Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 14 Feb 78 p 18 LD

[Interview granted by Minister of Information Ahmad Iskandar to AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM correspondent in Kuwait--date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Question] Is there a connection between what happened in Lebanon recently and the referendum [in Syria], particularly since all signs indicate that what happened in Lebanon was not a coincidence?

[Answer] What happened in Beirut definitely was not a coincidence; it is certainly linked with what is being planned against the security, safety, stability and progress of Lebanon. It also agrees with the same plan that is aimed at weakening Syria and at disguising the new alliance that is being prepared in the area between As-Sadat, the Zionist enemy and others. What happened in Lebanon is bound to fail because Syria is determined to exert every effort to establish security, stability and prosperity throughout Lebanon. We believe that Lebanon's security is far more important than individuals or groups, whoever they may be. Those who are trying to implement the U.S.-Israeli-As-Sadat plan in Lebanon will be drastically and justly punished, regardless of the measures required to take such drastic and just action.

[Question] The mandate of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon will expire in May, and the continued presence of these forces depends on the Arab League. Inasmuch as you are boycotting the Arab League meetings, what will the situation be after May?

[Answer] The presence of our forces which operate within the Arab deterrent forces depends on the will of the Lebanese people and the achievement of the national and humanitarian tasks assigned to them.

[Question] How do you view the present Arab situation and how will the situation develop according to Syria's calculations?

[Answer] The present Arab situation is saddening. It also involves potential dangers, which, if they remain unchecked, will affect the Arab future. Syria believes that this situation originates from an American plan whose implementation in the area had been entrusted to As-Sadat and the Zionist enemy. Syria also believes that the Arab nation's determination to exist and the Arabs' belief in their right to their land and to shaping their future in accordance with their free will require the Arabs to adopt a defensive stand, to mobilize their resources and to unify their will in order to oppose and thwart this plan. It is illogical that the Arabs should be driven to their death, as the proponents of the plan wish, in quest of illusions created by our enemies. The danger is not only menacing the present Arab generation but also our future generations and their right to build this future according to their free will and on the basis of their genuine interest. Those who are spreading the spirit of defeatism and despair among the Arabs are those who have no faith in their nation, are ignorant of its nature and do not appreciate its values and concepts. Those who say that the Arabs are only worth as much money as they have in their pockets are those who are obsessed by a historical spirit of vengeance and hatred for the Arab nation. In the past our nation experienced greater difficulties and faced invaders that did not lack might, or the desire for expansion, or racist hatred for the Arabs, but, nevertheless, our nation was patient, prepared itself for the confrontation and fought while believing in achieving victory.

[Question] How do you evaluate the balance of power in the area and what is the formula that Damascus is trying to work out following as-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem?

[Answer] The balance of power has been tipped in favor of the Zionist enemy following As-Sadat's step and his attempt to isolate Egypt from our Arab nation and wipe out Egypt's Arab and national aspirations. Syria is seeking to build a defense capability that would achieve a strategic military balance between itself and the Zionist enemy. Syria considers that, even if Syria's national voice remains alone as the voice struggling against the enemy, it will remain steadfast and will cling to the rights which, naturally, are Arab rights. We are confident that our stand responds not only to the will of citizens, but also equally to the aspirations of the broad Arab masses wherever they may be. We feel great strength and we become more resolved and determined when we realize the reality of the Arab desire throughout the great Arab homeland.

The defeatists in the Arab nation and those who propagate despair and defeat are those who have no faith in their nation or in themselves. They are the enemies of the Arab gene generation and its aspirations. They are the enemies of Arab progress and victory. Their fate is failure and their place will be on the garbage pile of history.

[Question] What about Syrian-Palestinian relations, particularly since it appears that the normalization of these relations and their restoration to the state that existed before the Lebanese war is slow?

[Answer] Syrian-Palestinian relations are good: They are militant relations whose common objective is to continue the struggle for the sake of the number one Arab cause--the cause of liberating the occupied territories and the restoration of the usurped rights.

[Question] Recently an Iraqi party delegation arrived in Damascus for the first time since 1975. Does this mark the beginning of development in the Syrian-Iraqi relations?

[Answer] The answer to this came from Baghdad and before the Iraqi delegation arrived. Baghdad officially announced that the delegation has no powers to hold any talks and has no official capacity; its task is only to participate in the popular conference which Damascus hosted.

AL-ASAD ENVOY TO VISIT LIBYAN, ALGERIAN LEADERS

JN020604Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Mar 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs, leaves Damascus today for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah capital bearing a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Libyan President Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Minister 'Adi will then leave for Algeria to convey a message to President Houari Boumediene.

ROMANIA, SYRIA SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

JN201943Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Romanian delegation led by Emil Draganescu, Romanian deputy premier, ended its visit to Syria and left Damascus this evening. Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, was at the head of those who saw the delegation off at Damascus International Airport.

An agreement for economic, cultural and scientific cooperation between Syria and Romania was signed this afternoon. The agreement was signed by Jamil Shayya for Syria while Emil Draganescu signed it on behalf of Romania.

ALGERIA

MINISTER COMMENTS ON LIBYAN-ALGERIAN COOPERATION

LD241619Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 21 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report on 20 February speech in Algiers by Algerian Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Ahmed Ghozali following signing of cooperation agreement with Libya: "Ahmed Ghozali: 'A New Starting Point for Cooperation'"]

[Text] As the work of the Algerian-Libyan joint committee draws to a close with the signing of a communique aimed at strengthening economic, technical and trade cooperation between the two fraternal countries, Mr Ahmed Ghozali declared, it is my pleasure to express by thanks to all the members of the Jamahiriya delegation for the efforts they have made with a view establishing specific cooperation in different fields and to show my satisfaction with the sincere spirit and desire of our sister delegation to work to achieve fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

Allow me, dear brother, to mention the results of our work, which constitutes a new starting point for our cooperation.

We have made certain decisions and examined the methods likely to increase trade between the two countries, particularly with regard to the exchange of produce, the setting up of a joint chamber of commerce and the opening of trade centers in the capitals of both countries.

As far as cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons is concerned, Mr Ahmed Ghozali continued, we agreed on the creation of a semipublic company for drilling and production and a semipublic company concerned with technical services. We also decided to carry out a study of the gas pipeline project aimed at meeting our sister Libya's natural gas needs.

With regard to cooperation in the field of agriculture and irrigation, we managed to draft a program of work and cooperation incorporating a study relating to exploitation of the artesian water supplies on either side of the border between the two countries.

With regard to the cultivation of palm groves and citrus fruits and the subject of sea fishing, we decided on the principle of creating companies in these fields.

With a view to encouraging closer communications between the two fraternal countries, we agreed to open a direct line between Algeria and the Jamahiriya before next June.

As far as technical cooperation and the exchange of experiences are concerned, particularly in the sphere of professional training, the joint Algerian-Libyan committee drew up a detailed work program, whose main provisions will be aimed at giving concrete form to both countries' aspirations to emerge from a state of underdevelopment and technological dependency.

Both sides fixed the terms for the exchange of development aid workers between the two countries.

Although the agreements and their appendices concluded between the two countries express the desire of both countries to bring about greater cooperation and more meetings for the sake of the Arab cause, we hope that our efforts will not be confined to this. On the contrary, we must continue our efforts with a view to establishing the objective conditions to achieve greater progress in the near future. So we must henceforth make preparations for a second meeting before the end of the year.

ENVOY TOURS AFRICAN CAPITALS, DISCUSSES INTERVENTIONS

LD011305Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 22 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Unattributed report: "President Boumediene's Special Envoy Visits Several African Capitals"]

[Text] Commerce Minister M'Hamed Yala has recently been on a tour of several African capitals in the capacity of President Boumediene's special envoy to Liberian Head of State President William Tolbert, Guinean Head of State President Ahmed Sekou Toure, Upper Voltan Head of State President El Hadj Aboubakar Sangoule Lamizana and Niger Head of State President Seyne Kountche.

M'Hamed Yala was received by President William Tolbert, to whom he handed a message from President Boumediene, president of the republic and president of the Council of the Revolution.

The audience, which experienced an atmosphere of great cordiality and perfect understanding, dealt with problems of mutual interest as well as current international issues as a whole and in particular those connected with imperialist maneuvers and military interventions which have created numerous centers of tension on the African Continent, notably in Rhodesia, the Horn of Africa and Western Sahara.

Other matters discussed during the talks were the fixing of a date for a meeting of the joint Algerian-Liberian cooperation committee and ways and means of persuading both sides to increase their trade substantially, to bring it up to the level of the excellent political relations existing between the two countries and the two peoples.

Saturday, Guinean Head of State President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who was paying an official visit to Monrovia, received M'Hamed Yala, who had arrived from Conakry the previous day. During the long audience he granted to the Algerian delegation, the situation on the African Continent was examined thoroughly in light of recent developments, particularly the French military intervention in Western Sahara, and both sides were unanimous in denouncing the activities of the imperialists and their agents and agreeing on the way to deal with the situation thus created, the purpose of which is to destabilize progressive regimes throughout the African Continent.

Moreover, subjects connected with bilateral cooperation were discussed with a view to increasing trade in all sectors for the great good of the two fraternal countries--taking into account the militant, active solidarity which has always linked the two revolutions and these two peoples, who have made and continue to make a fine contribution to the struggle for African liberation and prosperity.

After arriving at Ouagadougou Sunday, the Algerian delegation, led by M'Hamed Yala, was received that same day by the Upper Voltan Head of State President El Hadj Aboubakar Sangoule Lamizana.

The Algerian delegation, which bore a message from President Boumediene, held an exchange of views with President Lamizana on questions connected with bilateral cooperation and the main problems of the day, particularly the conflicts going on in various parts of Africa and the present situation in the Near East.

Finally, it is reported that a cooperation agreement was signed by the parties concerned.

Yesterday the minister of trade was at Niamey, where he haded over a message from President Boumediene to President Kountche.

Before the press the minister then referred to the increasingly serious situation in the area, owing mainly to French military interventions, which are in fact aimed not only at depriving the Western Saharan people of their freedom and independence but at destablizing progressive regimes in Africa.

The minister added that he had discussed this question at length with the Niger head of state.

LIBYA

U.S. REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTS TO INTIMIDATE LIBYA

LD231616Y Tripoli JANA in English 1514 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 23, JANA--JANA Political Editor writes: It becomes clearer daily that the American Government is the main terrorist power in the world as the leader of colonialism and the enemy of all nations. Her deeds are at variance with what she preaches. Thus, she is the first to violate human rights through her odious attempt to dominate smaller states.

This can be shown in the statement issued by the State Department denouncing the assassination of Yusuf Siba'i. The statement has called for the stepping up of international cooperation to fight terrorism, yet as is expected of those totally immersed in terrorist activities, it has overlooked the raid of As-Sadat's special forces on Larnaca Airport. It goes without saying that the reason for the State Department silence on As-Sadat's outragious aggression against Cyprus is that As-Sadat is one of their agents and a tool in spreading terrorism within Egypt, the Arab nation and Africa.

To condemn As-Sadat would be to condemn the United States and Israel, the conspirators and initiators of the abortive Larnaca operation. Had it not been for this conspiracy the State Department would not have hesitated in condemning the terrorism unleashed by one state against another member state in accordance with UN resolutions and the UN Charter which the U.S.A. has endorsed.

Moreover, the state department is so impudent as to attempt to intimidate the Jamahiriyah in order to stop here from giving her full and unconditional support to the liberation movements struggling for freedom, independence and their right to self-determination throughout the world. Nothing infuriates the United States more than the support tne Fatah revolution offers to the Palestinian people and their cause in defence of their right to return to their homeland and establish an independent state.

During President 'Abd an-Nasir, the United States was enemy number one to the Arab nation and especially to Egypt. But now that As-Sadat has capitulated he has become their closest friend; his treason is looked upon as courage and his aggression on Cyprus as not liable to condemnation. In order to stop its aggressive campaign against the Jamahiriyah, the United States expects the Jamahiriyah to follow As-Sadat's step and renounce all the principles and values laid down by the Fatah revolution. Should the Jamahiriyah refuse to capitulate and continue her support of the Palestinian and African people struggling together with all the Third World states against colonialism and for the protection of their natural resources, the United States would alter its values and carry out the most horrendous acts of terrorism to initimidate Jamahiriyah, which attempt is doomed to failure.

The American colonialist mentality has not understood the true nature of the great Fatah revolution and the Jamahiriyah people's belief in justice which, through by God's help, [as received] is invincible. The history of the U.S. is full of crimes against nations as shown by the American Congress committee reports which exposed the crimes committed by the American administration in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Latin America, besides the American role in toppling the elected regime in Chile.

In his speech on the anniversary of the evacuation of American troops from the soil of the Jamahiriyah, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that "terrorist practices today are similar to those of the 19th century. We have to draw our conclusions to avoid similar pitfalls as our history has indicated that no power on earth can ever stifle the people's resistance in Jamahiriyah, nor could the barbaric campaigns repress the people who are determined to defend their homes and their freedom; such was the case in Derna, which witnessed a valiant resistance in June 1805. [no closing quote as received] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi indicated that the Libyans were at present exposed to a new wave of international terrorism designed to subdue and humiliate them.

The American Navy of 1977 is the same as that of 1805. The reactionary conspiracies hatched by the imperialist stooges in the past are identical with today's, but the Jamahiriyah people who have adamantly resisted imperialism in the past are strong enough to thwart any new campaigns. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the legitimate struggle of the Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco were considered by imperialists as acts of piracy. In fact these people were waging a sacred war for the protection of their homes and lands. He affirmed that the Arabs who are struggling to restore their usurped land (Palestine) are not pirates as alleged by the West. Only those who occupy land by force are the real terrorists and pirates.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi denied American-Zionist allegations that the Arab nation was waging a terrorist war. He said: "We have no objections to the question of terror being brought before the United Nations as we are the first to fight terrorism. We appeal to the UN to intensify its efforts to abolish terrorism, specifically by the fleets of imperialist countries, who threaten smaller states. He affirmed that the Zionist invasion, supported by the superpowers, against Palestine in 1967 and in 1973 against other Arab countries is the best example of international terror.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT CALLS ON ALGERIA TO END AGGRESSION

PA261416Y Paris AFP in English 1359 GMT 26 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, Feb 26 (AFP)--President Moktar Ould Daddah today urged the Algerian Government to end "its war of aggression" against Mauritania. In a broadcast marking the second anniversary of "national [word indistinct]," the president asked Algeria to join Mauritania, other North African countries and the Arab world in building towards a peaceful future based on mutual respect. President Daddah also thanked Morocco and France for their support of Mauritania in the face of "Algerian aggression."

MOROCCO

MINISTER COMMENTS ON FISHERIES ACCORD WITH USSR

LD230925Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 13 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[MAP Report: "Strengthening of Moroccan-Soviet Cooperation in Field of Fisheries"]

[Text] Rabat, 12 February--Minister of Trade and Industry Abdelkamel Raghaye and Soviet Minister of Fisheries Aleksandr Ishkov signed a Moroccan-Soviet draft agreement on fisheries in Rabat Sunday.

At the conclusion of the signing ceremony Mr Abdelkamel Raghaye delivered a speech in which he expressed satisfaction at the results of his talks with the Soviet minister, who, he said, made possible the signing of this draft agreement, which will be capable of strengthening Moroccan-Soviet cooperation in the field of fisheries.

In his reply the Soviet minister stated that the draft agreement which has been signed offers Moroccan fishermen benefits in the field of occupational training and will allow Morocco to acquire Soviet experience in the field.

The Soviet Union, he added, **will supply** Morocco in March with vessels equipped with equipment for scientific research in the field of fisheries.

Giving details of this draft agreement, Mr Abdelkamel Raghaye stated that Moroccan sovereignty and Moroccan territorial waters will be respected and that the rights of the traditional and modern sectors of the fishing industry will be protected within the framework of this draft agreement so as to insure the exploitation of fisheries resources in a balanced manner and without harming the country's economic interests.

The draft agreement falls within the framework of the policy of his majesty's government in the field of fisheries, which have proved to be a field rich in resources. and cooperation with countries possessing considerable experience in this field is of indisputable interest to Morocco, Mr Reghaye stated.

Moroccan-Soviet cooperation in this field will be given concrete form by the setting up of joint companies, the minister of trade and industry said, adding that the fishing vessels and the fisheries resources which they will exploit will be Moroccan, and, he said, it is the Moroccan economy and canneries which will benefit primarily from this cooperation.

Morocco, the minister said, will export its surplus production, and this will enable it to make considerable foreign exchange earnings.

He added that,under this agreement, Moroccan technicians will benefit from Soviet experience by undergoing training in Soviet plants and shipyards and on board Soviet vessels, which are equipped with the most modern technical equipment in this field.

The draft agreement will be submitted to his majesty's government before its ratification by the two countries, the minister of trade and industry said in conclusion.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ON SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT

LD211606Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] In his monthly program between the people and the leader last night, President Numayri affirmed that Sudan is progressing, not lagging behind, and that it has begun to overcome backwardness by making use of its youth and committing to the task its intellectuals and the faith of the new generation, which is self-denying, remembers its homeland and applies its knowledge to the service of its fellow countrymen.

The leader president said Sudan's backwardness is due to historical and economic factors and to the eras of colonialism and factionalism. He said that by developing its agricultural potential Sudan is endeavoring to become one of the world's basic food sources. He said the time has come for Sudan to cease being a transit center for international trade and become a site for it. He said agreement has been reached with a Saudi firm on creating a free trade zone between Port Sudan and Sawakin, which would cover transit trade, industrial complexes and various consumer goods. He said this plan will transform Port Sudan into Sudan's foremost industrial city.

"His excellency praised the sons of Arab states who sent letters praising Sudan for its policy on the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon. On Sudan's actions, he said that with the achievement of national unity all the sensitive issues between Sudan and Libya came to an end. Our first move was to normalize relations [words indistinct].

"As for Ethiopia, I sent a message to the chairman of the Military Council in Ethiopia containing proposals on ways of ending the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia. No reply has been communicated so far. "Nevertheless, we warn against foreign intervention and making alliances with (?big powers), because big powers cooperate only to achieve their (?interests). [sentence indistinct] He added: What happened in Somalia happened to a lesser degree in other countries. He said: We do not deny that the differences between Somalia and Ethiopia preceded the Soviet intervention, but they became more extreme after the Soviet intervention. With authorization from the OAU, I undertook to try to bring about an accord between the two fraternal countries. Soviet intervention, however, thwarted all these efforts.

"The president said: I say to the USSR, its allies and followers: Hands off Africa. The sons of Africa are capable of solving their problems and settling their differences by means of constructive dialog, which cannot take place under the auspices of the detonating Soviet arms and [word indistinct] the steps of the Soviet and Cuban advisers, experts and combatants and other allies and [word indistinct]."

NUMAYRI RECEIVES THANK-YOU CABLE FROM AS-SADAT

NC011648Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1608 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 1 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has received the following thank-you cable from President Anwar as-Sadat for his condolences on the death of Martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i:

Thank you for your cable which conveyed to me your condolences and those of the government and people of fraternal Sudan on the martyrdom of Yusuf As-siba'i. While appreciating your sincere fraternal feelings, I am positive that the enemies of the Arab nation, terrorists, traitors and rancorous people will not escape punishment. We will continue along our course with more strength and determination to achieve victory, freedom, glory and dignity for our peoples. I ask God to grant us further success and to consolidate our steps.

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES NEW PLO REPRESENTATIVE

LD011556Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president of the republic and foreign minister, received in his office at the Foreign Ministry at 0930 this morning Abu Haytham, PLO representative in Khartoum, who presented to his excellency his letters of authority as representative of the organization to the Democratic Republic of the Sudan. The relations between Sudan and the organization and current developments in the Middle East were reviewed during the meeting. Abu Haytham praised the Sudan's consistent backing of the organization and its support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

TUNISIA

PANEL URGES THAT ARAB CAPITAL AID ARAB DEVELOPMENT

LD011319Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 23 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Conclusion of 24th Session of Arab Economic Council"]

[Excerpt] The 24th session of the Arab Economic Council, which opened in Tunis 20 February, ended at midday yesterday.

The council published the following closing statement:

While the Arab Economic Council is proud of the achievements made for the benefit of joint Arab action during recent years and the great progress made by Arab countries toward economic and social development, it is convinced that the decisive historic phase which the Arab nation is going through requires us to redouble our efforts in this direction.

The council is convinced that available Arab resources and complementary production can play an important role in consolidating the system of complementary economies and common Arab development and in building a broad base of Arab production capable of satisfying the essential needs of the Arab people and insuring their security and development, and it reaffirms the need to link the influx of its resources in the Arab world to a joint development plan for complementary Arab economies. It also believes that investing Arab capital within the Arab world and exploiting this capital for development is the best insurance for the future of this capital. It reaffirms its belief that the mutually profitable benefits from the investments of Arab resources are greater than the possible risks which these resources run, quite apart from the demands of the common interest.

The council believes that Arab cooperation in investment takes place on the basis of balanced relations which are equally profitable to both parties who work as partners sharing work and profits.

Each should therefore make positive efforts to inspire confidence and create a favorable climate for Arab investment by insuring guarantees, profit and liquidity by setting up adequate organizations agencies, by insuring that appropriate legislation is passed and applied and that information on the projects and their advantages is circulated.

The council has, furthermore, made a close examination of the principal obstacles which hinder the circulation of Arab capital and its use for the benefit of joint Arab development. The analysis shows that countries which export capital and those which welcome foreign capital are jointly responsible for this situation, especially since Arab legislation still treats the Arab investor on the same footing as the foreign investor. Our national interests, therefore, demand that we should give Arab capital preferential treatment in Arab states, as was decided in the commercial sector, and should apply the principle of Arab economic citizenship.

With a view to speeding up the process of achieving complementary economies and joint Arab economic development, the council has asked the Arab League General Secretariat to draft a new Arab convention, dealing only with investment, which would achieve the objectives listed above.

This convention should contain a minimum of conditions, guarantees and facilities for investment in each state. The council is asking Arab governments to work toward establishing a climate of security and confidence, applying the principle of reciprocity as regards investments between the country exporting the capital and the country receiving it and removing all the obstacles preventing Arab capital from contributing to development. The council stresses the importance of examining the idea of creating definite geographical zones for Arab investment in countries who would welcome it, with a view to integrating investment into the national economy and national development schemes. It has also made Arab investment companies responsible for establishing the infrastructures as part of the task of investment.

The council is extremely satisfied with the activities of joint Arab companies. It recommends that the creation of other joint companies and the establishment of possible channels of cooperation between them should be encouraged. It recommends that Arab governments give these companies preferential treatment if they benefit a complementary Arab economic system. Therefore, the best means of doing this is to reserve some of the company shares for Arab citizens and allow these shares to circulate freely among Arab states.

The council is extremely satisfied with the efforts made by Arab financing organizations and calls for more cooperation between them to strengthen joint Arab economic activity.

Finally, the council reaffirms the important role which the Arab stock market plays in promoting economic development by facilitating the circulation and influx of Arab capital to aid the Arab nation's progress.

PRIME MINISTER'S AIDE EXPLAINS BACKGROUND OF UNREST

LD231405Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 18 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report on Destourian Socialist Party Director and Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister Mr Mohamed Sayah 17 February Speech at Ea-Zahra: "More Than Property and People, It Was the State Which Was the Target"]

[Excerpt] Today we are celebrating the 22nd anniversary of the Tunisian Railroad Company. This is not much in the life of a firm and even less in the life of a nation. But how many changes have taken place in that time and how much progress has been accomplished! How many things have happened! The latest has been the ordeal which we underwent on 26 January. No country is spared from crises, and Tunisia has known many in the course of its long history. Some peoples havelearned the necessary lessons from them and made their countries permanently safe from upheavals. Those countries are now powers in the forefront of economic, political and social progress.

Our desire is to insure that neither present-day Tunisia nor the up-and-coming generations are ever again exposed to this danger. Consequently, we must draw the necessary conclusions.

First--and this is a sacred duty--we must imbue ourselves with the notion of the state, instill it in our children and spread it around ourselves. It must be fully understood that acts of vandalism, attacks on other people's freedom and looting are all forms of aggression against the state, its authority and its prestige. For everything connected with maintaining law and order and the security of property and persons comes under the state's jurisdiction. Indeed, its fundamental task is to preserve law and order and public security.

The plot hatched on 26 January, which had been under preparation for a long time and whose initial stages were put into effect, was aimed at rendering the state incapable of fulfilling this task. If it had succeeded, Tunisia would have suffered one of the worst catastrophes in its history. For without a strong, respected state, nothing lasting can be built. Those who calim to be able to improve the workers' conditions while at the same time trying to undermine the state's foundations are clearly guilty of bad faith. A strong state is the prerequisite for any social life. It is the guarantee that the longing of the masses for material and moral well-being will be fulfilled. Those who speak of democracy must be aware that it calls above all for a strong state.

The truth is that some people only evoke democracy and freedom so as to have every opportunity to denigrate the state and disparage the men who serve it, with the sole aim of coming to power. Certainly, competition to assume responsibilities is a natural thing provided that it observes the rules of the democratic game. Political action cannot, indeed, tolerate street law, lying propaganda and attacks on the state's authority.

If we want to preserve this authority and consolidate our institutions, we must beware of a resurgence of what Bourguiba calls the Numidian demon of division and anarchy. The truth is that we have not yet managed to rid ourselves once and for all of a certain tendency to vandalism and rebellion, the legacy of a long period of obscurity and decadence. This tendency explains the dark ages of our history when the forces of evil triumphed over civilization.

BEGIN RECEIVES LETTER FROM AS-SADAT, MAKES STATEMENT

TA021140Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 2 Mar 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Our political correspondent reports about the meeting between the prime minister and Alfred Atherton:

[Qital] The meeting between the prime minister and Alfred Atherton was short. The main news about it is a personal letter sent by President as-Sadat to Prime Minister Begin. The letter was brought to the prime minister by Alfred Atherton. The contents of the letter are being kept secret for the time being. We shall now hear the prime minister talking about this personal message from President as-Sadat. [begin recording]

[Begin] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Atherton has again arrived from Cairo. He reported to the Egyptian Government about our proposal regarding the declaration of principles. He received the Egyptian reply. According to these exchanges, there is a basis for the statement that the negotiations aimed at determining the contents of the declaration of principles will continue. Mr Atherton, to whom we are grateful and thankful for his efforts in the process of establishing peace in the Middle East, brought me a personal letter from President as-Sadat. I will reply to this letter at the beginning of next week, so that the assistant secretary will be able, presumably, on Tuesday to deliver my letter, my reply, personally, to President as-Sadat. We are announcing the fact that such a personal letter was transmitted to me. I gratefully confirm that I have received it. However, we agreed that the contents of the letter will not be publicized. [end recording]

[Qital] These are the remarks. When I asked the prime minister about the spirit of things, he said that he had not yet had time to thoroughly scrutinize the letter, but that if he told me what the spirit is I would understand from that the contents. Therefore, he would not tell me about the spirit of the letter. In any case, if we judge by moods, then the prime minister's mood, either in the wake of this letter or of other things, is very good.

As for Qadesh Barne'a, the prime minister replied briefly: There is a government decision, everything will be alright. He did not agree to add anything to this. At any rate, he met with Ari'el Sharon and 'Ezer Weizman this morning and they reached a conclusion on this matter. From the Prime Minister's Office.

GOVERNMENT SOURCE: U.S. DID NOT ASK FOR NEW PROPOSALS

TA011211Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] A senior government source told our correspondent yesterday that Israel was not asked by the United States to submit any new proposals for the continuation of the negotiations with Egypt. The source said this when asked if the prime minister intends to take new Israeli proposals to Washington.

As is well known, the government will hold a political discussion on Sunday in preparation for the prime minister's departure for the United States on 12 March for talks with President Carter.

A high-ranking nongovernment source yesterday rejected Foreign Minister Dayan's view that Egypt has apparently hardened its position lately because of its wish "to level itself" with Jordan's position in order to bring about its participation in the negotiations process. The source said that the Egyptian hardening occurred after the Israeli hardening, namely, the interpretation of Resolution 242 that Israel need not withdraw totally from Judaea and Samaria.

It appears that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton also expressed wonder at this new element in the Israeli position. The high-ranking source pointed out that in reaction to the Israeli hardening at the beginning of the present shuttle trip, Egypt has decided to demand that, in the declaration of principles, Israel commit itself in detail to a full withdrawal on all three fronts. In the wake of the Israeli hardening, Egypt has also gone back on agreements already reached between Israel and Egypt on the Palestinian issue.

Resolution 242 talks, as is well known, about "a withdrawal from territories" taken in 1967 and not about a withdrawal from "the territories." On the basis of this interpretation the United States at the time adopted the position that Israel should withdraw to the 1967 borders with slight modifications. Israel, however, demanded that, in accordance with Resolution 242, negotiations be held with the Arab countries and that the peace borders be determined in the course of the negotiations. So far Israel has never said that the wording "a withdrawal from territories" makes it possible not to withdraw at all from the West Bank.

The new interpretation attributed to Prime Minister Begin made it impossible for the Egyptian president to go ahead with the negotiations since in order to sign a separate agreement with Israel he must first, due to his difficulties in the Arab world, reach an agreed formula with Israel on the Palestinian issue.

When the direct talks between Israel and Egypt in the Political Committee in Jerusalem were stopped on 18 January, a noteworthy agreement between Israel and Egypt on the Palestinian issue, an agreement based on President Carter's statement in Aswan on 4 January, had already been reached.

President Carter's statement in Aswan on the Palestinian issue consisted of three points:

A. Finding a solution to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects.

B. Recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

C. Enabling the Palestinians to take part in the determination of their future.

In the first point Israel wanted the words "in all its aspects" deleted. As regards the second point, Israel wanted to settle for "the rights of the Palestinian Arabs." On the third point, Israel succeeded in reaching the wording: Enabling the Palestinians to participate in contacts for the determination of their future together with Israel, Jordan and Egypt.

The Egyptian draft of the declaration of principles talks only of "recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." It has therefore been viewed in Jerusalem as a toughening of position compared with the agreement already achieved on 18 January.

It has been learned that one of the points on which Israel reveals intransigency--incomprehensibly, according to the Americans--is the demand to delete the word "legitimate" from the wording "recognition of the legitimate rights" of the Palestinians." Israel claims that any right is legitimate and, therefore, this word is unnecessary. When Israel is told that if this is true then the word "legitimacy" should not disturb it even if included in the wording, Israel reiterates its demand to have the word "legitimacy" deleted.

DMC PROTESTS AGAINST YADIN'S EXCLUSION FROM TALKS

TA011123Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 78 p 3 TA

[By Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] Indignation about the nonparticipation of Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin in the delegation headed by Prime Minister Begin, which is going to the United States for talks with the heads of the U.S. administration, has been expressed by MK Asaf Yaguri (from the Democratic Movement for Change).

A letter was sent to Yadin calling on him to withdraw from the government as soon as possible for fear that the DMC will not constitute a political element in the next elections. The letter, sent by accountant Dan Babli, says that Me'ir Zore'a's withdrawal from the DMC has not brought about any essential change in the status of the party or its image in the eyes of the public.

As for the noninclusion of Professor Yadin in the delegation departing for the United States, MK Asaf Yaguri said that it is impossible for Yadin not to be in the delegation consisting of the foreign and defense ministers sometimes for internal-coalitional reasons and sometimes for reasons of convenience. [sentence as published]

POST EDITORIAL EMPHASIZES 'SECURE, RECOGNIZED' BOUNDARIES

TA020649Y Jerusalem POST in English 2 Mar 78 p 8 TA

[Editorial: "Heart of the Matter"]

[Text] The peace talks are at a virtual standstill. Egypt and Israel are, at best, treading water, and Mr Atherton's earnest efforts to shift them to some more profitable occupation have so far been in vain.

Only yesterday Egypt's foreign minister submitted to the U.S. assistant secretary of state a new proposed version of a "declaration of principles." This was followed by the comment, from local Cairo sources, that the Egyptian attitude remained greatly at variance with the Israeli.

The gap appeared to be so large, indeed, that there was little chance of its being significantly narrowed during Mr Atherton's present shuttle mission.

Most distressing, however, was the escalating, mutual exchange of accusations about stiffened negotiating positions. The focus of this semi-public dickering in the past few days has not been Israeli settlements, strictly a peripheral issue, but the vital issues of the West Bank and the Palestinians.

Egypt, supported by the U.S. has taken strenuous exception to what is descsribed as Israel's sudden about-face on the application of the withdrawal clause in Resolution 242 to Judaea and Samaria.

Israel, on the other hand, has countered with the charge that Egypt has gone far beyond President Carter's Aswan statement to insist on an unimpeded right of self-determination for the Palestinians.

The Israeli argument is the more solidly founded. The Aswan formula itself, with the suggested recognition of the (perilously undefined) "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," clearly falls outside the pale of Israeli acceptance. To stretch this language, for whatever reason, is to court a stalemate.

As for the government's claim that it is under no duty of withdrawal from the West Bank, it is hardly a novelty. Mr Begin made the point before, and so did a number of his lieutenants. Indeed, the entire purpose of his "self-rule" plan for Judaea and Samaria has been to get around this vexing problem.

That this should come as a surprise to Egypt, and the U.S., is a cause for wonderment.

This is not to say that Mr Begin's major thesis--that the obligation of withdrawal "from territories" may be discharged by full evacuation on only one of the three six-day war fronts--will stand scrutiny. If anything, it is believed by the premier's very argument against Israel's acceptance of Resolution 242 when he was still leader of the opposition.

Mr Begin would be entirely justified in resisting attempts by the U.S., ostensibly acting as an honest broker, to dictate to Israel the measure of change in the armistice lines deemed necessary for the country's security. But he cannot very well fault the U.S., a principal author of 242, for making clear what is patent anyways: that Israeli withdrawal under that Security Council text cannot be fulfilled in Sinai alone.

To persons of Mr Begin's persuasion, of course, retreat from even the tiniest part of Judaea and Samaria, and its transfer to foreign rule, is a prospect too dreadful to contemplate. But in an effort to escape it, the premier has only got his government into a hopeless bind on the Palestinian issue.

The Israeli case against Palestinian "rights" may have theoretical merit, but little practical value. To be relieved of the burden of solving the problem of the Palestinians, Israel has no choice but to cede effective control of the destinies of one million Arabs, even if it means abandonment of the autonomy scheme.

Though riddled with ambiguities, Resolution 242 is eloquently specific in calling for withdrawal only to secure and recognized boundaries, and only in conditions of peace; and it is resoundingly silent on the Palestinians.

Treated plainly, it should be Israel's strongest weapon in the diplomacy of peace-making. Twisted beyond recognition, it is liable to become the instrument of deadlock, and confrontation.

WEIZMAN FORBIDS SETTLERS AT QADESH BARNE'A CAMP

TA012034Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has ordered the military governor of Al Arish to forbid the Qadesh Barne'a settlers to enter the camp built for them at the foot of (Jabal Hilal) about 125 kilometers southwest of Beersheba.

Our correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned that last night, at midnight, the settlers, who are part of a nucleus of the Moshav Movement, received an order forbidding them to enter the camp. They had equipment for the construction of buildings. At this stage two buildings have been set up in the camp. Nearby the Meqorot Company drilled last year and found high-quality water. Our correspondent points out that the settlement in Qadesh Barne'a was authorized in principle under the Alinement cabinet, and the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, headed by Minister Ari'el Sharon, reauthorized the settlement about 4 months ago. The Moshav Movement today sent a protest letter to the minister of agriculture in which they demanded that the settlers be permitted to enter the camp.

Reliable sources told our correspondent that, in their evaluation, Mr Weizman ordered that the settlers be forbidden to enter the camp in the wake of the cabinet decision on Sunday.

Sharon Surprised by Move

TA020637Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Government Secretary Arye Na'or told our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer this morning that the defense minister's order to prohibit the Qadesh Barne'a settlers from entering their permanent settlement was issued in accordance with the government decision. Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon said, in contrast, that he was surprised to hear about the order banning the Qadesh Barne'a settlers from entering their settlement and that he will check the matter with the defense minister today. He emphasized that the decision to set up a settlement in Qadesh Barne'a was taken by the previous government and that the ministerial committee endorsed it. According to the agriculture minister, there has been no recent discussion about Qadesh Barne'a and the government decision on the settlements issue, taken at the beginning of this week, does not pertain to this settlement. The agriculture minister will confer with the defense minister this morning.

MINISTER HAMMER: SHILO MEANT AS ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

TA020639Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Education Minister Zevulun Hammer has said that the government decision to carry out archeological digs in Shilo was an innocent, sincere decision. He rejected reports that the government decided on the diggers' camp as a cover up for settlement. In a speech to the Archeological Council, the education minister said that a group of archeologists from Tel Aviv University is going to submit a formal request for a permit to excavate at Shilo. In his opinion, if the request is submitted, it is desirable that the Archeological Council approve it. Our correspondent reports that it appears that the council members will not object to granting the permit.

YADIN DENIES INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING TOWNS IN SAMARIA

TA012102Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 1 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin has said that the cabinet has not decided to establish towns in Samaria. He in fact denied a report in the name of Minister Landau to the effect that such a decision had indeed been made. Mr Yadin was speaking at a session of the DMC council.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN EXPLAINS DAYAN STATEMENT

TA011618Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 1 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem this afternoon explained that the publication of the foreign minister's remarks yesterday on the issue of the settlements was cut short and likely to create a mistaken impression. The foreign minister did indeed say that the cabinet had not decided formally on the establishment of any settlement, but these words touched only on settlements in the Rafah approaches.

DAYAN TOLD EGYPTIANS OF SINAI POSITION BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS

TA011125Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The Israeli intention to continue holding its settlement in the Sinai under Egyptian sovereignty was made clear to Cairo in two secret meetings between Foreign Minister Dayan and President as-Sadat's representatives in Morocco.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister for presidential affairs, Hasan at-Tuhami took part in both meetings and other Egyptian representatives took part in the second meeting. These talks were aimed at clarifying to Egypt Israel's intention concerning the Sinai, and they were held in the framework of the quiet efforts made by the Begin government in order to drive Egypt into opening negotiations with Israel.

In these talks Dayan stated Israel's main ideas regarding the settlement it was ready to offer Egypt about the future of the Sinai Peninsula. The Israeli proposal passed to Egypt in those meetings was to divide the Sinai into three zones: In the first zone, Egypt would hold as many military forces as it liked, the second would be a demilitarized zone, and the third a UN supervised zone that would be a security belt for Israel and include its Sinai settlements that would enjoy self-defense ability.

The Egyptian representatives reacted by saying that they were not enthusiastic about the proposal but that it constituted a basis for negotiations.

The principles presented to As-Sadat's representatives in those meetings were later consolidated into a definite plan that was presented to At-Tuhami in the third meeting held by Dayan in Morocco after As-Sadat's visit in Jerusalem. Formally the detailed proposal was transmitted to As-Sadat in the Ismailia summit (although it had been given earlier to Carter and passed through him to As-Sadat).

The progress of the events as mentioned above proves that the principle regarding the continued existence of the Israeli settlements in the Sinai was already known to As-Sadat in the days preceding his vist, and there is therefore no foundation to the claim recently heard that the peace plan surprised him since it included the element about the continued existence of the Israeli settlements.

It has been learned that when the prime minister presented the peace plan (including the component dealing with the Israeli settlements in the Sinai) to President Carter and U.S. senators he also reviewed before them the progression of events leading to its consolidation.

SINAI BEDOUINS DEFY MILITARY, ENTER NEGEV

TA020735Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A large group of Bedouins from the Sinai has entered the southern Negev contrary to the orders of the military authorities and repaired an old road connecting the Al-Kuntillah region with the 'Arava road [the Sedom-Elat highway]. Our correspondent says that the Bedouins in question are members of the (Haywat) tribe. In fact, almost all the tribesmen have crossed the green line and established themselves in the Be'er Menuha region. They have brought with them thousands of cattle and camel that graze in areas which are protected areas by law. Lately they have also started drilling wells. The tribesmen left behind only a few people in the Sinai. These people are charged with the job of receiving food and equipment from UNRWA for transfer to the tribesmen in the Negev over the road they have repaired.

ZIONIST CONGRESS APPROVES RIGHT TO SETTLE ERETZ YISRA'EL

TA011124Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 1 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Text] By a considerable majority the Zionist Congress has again endorsed the right of the Jewish people to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el, giving priority to regions vital to the security of the state.

It is stated in the decision that only the government is authorized to decide on the regions vital to the security of the state.

The reservations made on this matter were rejected. Professor Avineri's demand to include a statement about readiness for territorial compromises in the political decision was also rejected.

JERICHO MAYOR TO TESTIFY BEFORE UN COMMITTEE

TA020917Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The military authorities have allowed Jericho Mayor 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Suwayti to leave for Geneva to testify before the UN Human Rights Committee. In addition to the mayor the committee also invited the mayors of Ramallah, Hebron and Nabulus to testify. However, Hebron Mayor Al-Qawasimi is not inclined to leave for Geneva at this time when the mayors of Ramallah and Nabulus are on a tour of Arab countries and it is not clear how they will react.

JORDAN REPORTEDLY WANTS TO PAY W. BANK OFFICIALS

TA021000Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Jordan has asked its trustees in Judaea and Samaria to prepare a list of all state employees appointed in the region after the 6-day war. This was learned by our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari. Presently the employees are not paid by Jordan. It has been learned that Jordan wants the list in order to raise funds in the oil countries to pay the wages of those employees--just as with employees appointed by the Jordanian Government up to June 1967.

INDIA

VIETNAMESE PREMIER IN MADRAS AFTER VISIT TO BOMBAY

LK011123Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister of Vietnam, Mr Pham Van Dong, has said he is very much impressed by the work carried out at the Bhaba Atomic Research Center in India, particularly in the use of isotopes in agriculture, industry and medicine. He said the preservation of food products like potatoes and onions has impressed him most.

Mr Pham Van Dong was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Madras this morning from Bombay. He was received at the airport by the governor and the chief minister of the state of Tamil Nadu. Mr Pham Van Dong is accompanied by the minister of foreign trade and the vice minister of foreign affairs. Tomorrow the Vietnamese prime minister and his party will visit Mahaballipuram before leaving for Colombo.

VAJPAYEE COMMENTS ON INDIAN OCEAN, HORN OF AFRICA

BK271625Y Delhi ISI in English 1449 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Responding to a calling attention notice to the reported presence of the U.S. naval force in the Indian Ocean as a consequence of the explosive situation in the Horn of Africa and the suspension of the U.S.-Soviet negotiations over the arms limitation in the Indian Ocean, the minister of external affairs, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said in the Lok Sabha on February 27:

The house is fully aware of the government's view that the military presence of the great powers in the Indian Ocean is a cause of tension and insecurity in the area. The concept of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean implies the elimination of the foreign military presence from the area. India, a member of UN ad hoc committee, is also actively participating in the implementation of the UN resolution on a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. The preparations for a meeting of the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean to be convened in New York for implementing the UN resolution are at hand. India has given expression to its belief that for achieving concrete results, the participation of the great powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the proposed international conference is essential.

It is in this context that India has welcomed the U.S.-USSR talks on the mutual arms limitation in the Indian Ocean as a step towards the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace although our objective remains that of the elimination of all foreign military presence from the Indian Ocean. India hopes that any bilateral understanding agreement reached by the great powers shall incline them to extend increased cooperation to the United Nations in this matter and thus facilitate the establishment of the zone of peace.

The current explosive situation in the Horn of Africa is a source of deep concern to us. Ethiopia and Somalia, apart from being neighbours linked to us by the Indian Ocean with whom we have friendly relations, are also developing countries and our fellow partners in the nonaligned fraternity of nations. The continuance of this conflict is vitiating the generally improving climate of international relations and causing a serious setback to detente. This makes it all the more imperative for us to contribute to the search of an early peaceful and negotiated solution to the problems. This house will recall that as early as August last I appealed to the leaders of Ethiopia and Somali through their charge d'affaires in New Delhi for the exercise of restraint and statemanship and had also expressed the hope that a peaceful settlement of the dispute would be arrived at and that the OAU Good Offices Committee on this subject would succeed.

I had also expressed our apprehension that the conflict in the Horn of Africa would divert the attention away from the burning issues in southern Africa and that the continuation of the dispute would weaken the nonaligned movement and invite increased great power rivalry in the region. To our great disappointment the OAU efforts have not yet succeeded and some of our fears are proving correct.

The differences between Ethiopia and Somalia lver the Ogaden Province of Ethiopia erupted in the form of a full-scale armed conflict last June. Ethiopia ascribed this to the invasion of its territory by Somalian troops while Somalia claimed it as the liberation of Ogaden by the Western Somalian Liberation Front. Though the matter came before the OAU summit conference in Libreville last August, its subsequent mediatory efforts did not succeed. The situation continued to deteriorate. Now there are reports of large-scale external military involvement in area. Even allegations have been made that Ethiopia with its augmented military capabilities may decide to carry the war across the frontiers. Ethiopia, as the house is aware, has denied these allegations and has gone on record to say that its objective is to get the aggression vacated.

Our prime minister has had an exchange of correspondence with President Carter of the United States and President Brezhnev of the USSR in which the developing situation in the Horn of Africa has been referred to. He has stated that the conflict in the Horn of Africa required restraint on the part of external powers, as it could become more complicated by the increasing rivalry and foreign military involvement. He has suggested that ways and means of restraint should be found to bring about a settlement, respecting the principle of inviolability of the established frontiers as enshrined in the OAU Charter and that an acceptable political solution under the OAU, the United Nations or any other mutually acceptable auspices be urged.

Secretary of State Vance had stated in his press conference on 10 February 1978 that Soviet and Cuban involvement cannot help but have an effect upon the relationship between the United States on the one hand and the USSR and Cuba on other, and that it is a matter which the United States will obviously keep in mind as they proceed with the talks on the Indian Ocean because what seems to be happening there was, in his view, inconsistent with the limitation of forces insofar as the Indian Ocean talks were concerned. Even then he had observed that the United States would continue with those talks, but pointed out that obviously it affected the political atmosphere in which those talks are carried forward.

There have been consultations recently about the desirability of convening the UN Security Council to consider the situation in the Horn of Africa. Both the United States and the United Kingdom feel that the aim of a debate in the UN Security Council would be to have deliberations and seek negotiations which would contribute to a political solution by reinforcing through UN involvement the OAU efforts at mediation. They stress that the purpose of the council meeting is to seek a settlement and not to engage in a propaganda exercise. They also feel that the respect of the territorial integrity of all states in the areas should be one of the guiding principles in bringing about a peaceful resolution. In fact, as stated by Doctor Brzezinski, the U.S. position is that Somalia ought to withdraw to its territorial frontiers, that the invasion of Ethiopia ought to be terminated, that there ought to be peacekeeping arrangements, preferably by the OAU and in that context, the reported foreign involvement by the Soviet Union and Cuba ought to be also terminated by the departure of their forces.

The Soviet Union holds the view that the first step is the Somali withdrawal from the Ogaden. They are at pains to point out that while the Western powers had shown no concern at the time of the Somali aggression of Ethiopia, they are now voicing their concern about the situation in the Horn of Africa when the Ethiopian side has begun to repel this aggression. They feel that their assistance to Ethiopia in repelling the aggression should not be construed in any way as their being interested in the expansion of the conflict. They are categorical in stating that a cease-fire without Somali withdrawal is not possible. They think that, once Somali forces have withdrawn, the problem could be tackled by the OAU. They have informed the United States that they are opposed to a Security Council meeting as it would only exacerbate the situation.

We also understand that the African group is not in favor of discussions in the Security Council. At the same time, Nigeria, who is chairman of the OAU mediation committee, has been trying very hard to mediate between Ethiopia and Somalia in order to bring the conflict to an end. The Nigerian efforts seem at last to be succeeding with their having arranged meeting which would take place on February 28 in Lagos between the special emissaries of Ethiopia and Somalia.

We have all along felt that the solution to the problem--as indeed for all intra-African problems--should be sought in consonance with the letter and spirit of the OAU Charter. We therefore believe that the parties to the dispute should respect and observe the letter and the spirit of this charter. We are in favor of any concrete and agreed initiative that can bring about such a solution. We therefore welcome the Lagos meeting on 28 February 1978 between the Ethiopian and Somalian special emissaries and hope that it will have a successful outcome. We would support any moves which would reinforce the OAU efforts leading to the cessation of hostilities and a mutually acceptable solution and we hope that the requisite cooperation for the success of such efforts would be forthcoming from all parties concerned.

I would now refer to what certain honorable members seem to regard as a connected move, namely, the reported U.S. naval presence in the Indian Ocean. There have also been reports of the naval presence of other great powers in the area. While it is not possible for us to accurately assess the connection between this development and the situation in the Horn of Africa, we are of the view that such foreign naval presence in the region cannot but act as an impediment to the lessening of the tension in the area and also to the effort of the international community for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean.

There is no truth in the reports that due to developments in the Horn of Africa the U.S.-USSR talks on the questions concerning arms limitation measures in the Indian Ocean have been suspended. In fact, the last round of such talks was held in Bern, Switzerland, according to the schedule from February 7 to 17. Thus the talks did not end abruptly, nor were they called off prematurely on account of the situation in the Horn of Africa or for any other reason. However, we are given to understand that the U.S. Government has informed the Soviet delegation at these talks that it regretted the current Soviet activities in the Horn of Africa and that the increase in Soviet naval forces was inconsistent with the spirit and substance of the negotiations. The Soviet side views this as another instance of the American practice of making use of unrelated situations for political purposes.

As regards the substance of the negotiations that ended 10 days ago, we understand that concrete progress has been registered. Both the United States and the USSR have characterized the discussions as "frank and useful", contributing to an understanding of each other's position. Moreover, there is agreement for these talks to be resumed, though unlike the hitherto practice of agreeing upon the approximate date and venue of the next round of talks, the date of the subsequent meeting has been left to be fixed by mutual agreement later on.

Sir, we have always held that the benefits of detente should flow to the international community as a whole. We have always been in favor of the peaceful solution of disputes, bilaterally or through regional organizations, such as the OAU in the case of intra-African problems, and if need be, through mutually acceptable auspices. The Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace guaranteeing peaceful maritime activity through which international commerce flows. Meaningful programmes of economic cooperation among its littoral and hinterland states for the benefit and welfare of the people inhabiting the Indian Ocean region ought to be developed. Any development which impedes the evolution of the course of events in these directions is a matter of serious concern to us. What is more India can ill afford to have a tension creating presence in the vicinity of its maritime zones. This is how we view the situation to which the honorable members have drawn attention. This house will agree that a just, peaceful and negotiated settlement of the problem in the Horn of Africa is bound to exercise a healthy influence in bringing about an early establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and will be conducive to the development of mutually beneficial (?interstate) economic cooperation in the region. All efforts in this direction will have our full support.

SAMACHAR adds: Replying to a question, Vajpayee told P.C. Navlankar that Prime Minister Morarji Desai had discussed with U.S. President Jimmy Carter during the latter's recent visit to India the question of establishing a peace zone in the Indian Ocean and had clearly stated India's position that it was opposed to the presence of the big powers in the area. Desai had drawn Carter's pointed attention to the increased fund allocation by the U.S. administration for the naval base in Diego Garcia, he said.

Vajpayee agreed with the members that, while all big powers were agreed on the need to limit their military presence in the Indian Ocean, the fact remained that there had been a steady increase in their presence. He stoutly refuted the suggestion of a departure in India's policy with regard to keeping the Indian Ocean as a peace zone and assured Sougata Roy that the policy of the previous government was being pursued without any shift or tilt towards the United States. In this context, he agreed with Doctor M.M. Joshi that, while Carter had favored the total demilitarization of the Indian Ocean before he was elected president of the United States, Carter as president would appear to have shifted his stand to favor arms limitation in the Indian Ocean [sentence as received].

VAJPAYEE REPORTS TO PARLIAMENT ON PAKISTAN VISIT

BK271543Y Delhi ISI in English 1433 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The following statement was made on February 27 by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the minister of external affairs, in the Lok Rajya Sabha on his goodwill visit to Pakistan:

Ever since the Janata Party assumed office last year, the major thrust of the Government of India's foreign policy has been towards fostering the development of the friendliest possible relations between India and her neighbors. It was on the basis of this policy that I had earlier visited Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Burma. The same policy motivated by goodwill the visit to Pakistan from February 6 to 8, 1978.

I went with no agenda for discussion. My intention as an emissary of goodwill was to make clear India's desire for a relationship of peace and friendship with Pakistan on the basis of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, noninterference in internal affairs and mutual benefit.

The past history of the relations between the two countries has created psychological problems which both sides have to recognise, to face and to attempt to resolve. I mentioned to Agha Shahi, adviser on foreign affairs of the Government of Pakistan, that, while it is true that India happens to be a big country, we want to improve relations between India and Pakistan on the basis of equality, understanding and goodwill. This clearly implies respect, not only for the sovereignty of each country but the right of each country to determine its own political and social system. One of the most heartening features of our general elections last year was the absence of any controversy over our relations with Pakistan. During 1977 there were far-reaching political changes in Pakistan also. The fact that despite political upheavals in both countries the climate of Indo-Pakistan relations did not receive a setback is a tribute to the maturity of our two peoples. This encouraged me to undertake this mission of goodwill.

During my visit I had discussions with General Ziaul Haq, chief of army staff and chief martial law administrator, and Agha Shahi, adviser on foreign affairs. Our discussions were held in a very cordial atmosphere. They covered bilateral relations and also international issues, such as the north-south dialogue and the UN General Assembly's special session on disarmament, on which we had a broad similarity of approach.

During our discussions, the Pakistan side referred to the Simla agreement. We assured them that the Janata government stands by this agreement. In this context, the Pakistan side made a mention of Kashmir. Both of us stated our respective positions while recalling that the Simla agreement commits both countries to abjure the use of force.

During my discussions with General Zia, we noted that there has been a significant growth of our trade relations and recognized that they should and could grow in a balanced manner to our mutual advantage. Trade teams of the two countries are to meet shortly to review the trade agreement of 1975 and to study how two-way trade can develop.

The two sides also had discussions on the need to facilitate a freer flow of people and information between the two countries. In this context, the Government of India are happy to note that there has been some exchange of artists, scholars and sportsmen. We were also happy to welcome Doctor Amir Mohammad, adviser on agriculture of the Government of Pakistan on February 20, 1978. He is visiting a number of our projects during his stay in India. We hope that his visit will mark the beginning of exchanges in the field of science and technology so that experts in both countries can learn from each other's experience.

During my discussions, it was also agreed that we should complete the process of exchanging detenees held in either country with utmost expedition. This is a humanitarian problem and we are interested in seeing it resolved as soon as possible.

Another point of agreement was that we would resume talks on the Salal Dam project from where they were left off in October 1976. A delegation from Pakistan is expected to come here for this purpose shortly. The dates will be fixed according to our mutual convenience.

On behalf of our prime minister, I transmitted a letter to the chief martial law administrator, formally inviting him to visit India. He accepted the invitation in principle.

Sir, there was widespread speculation in the press about my visit before it took place. My own belief is that public opinion in both countries has welcomed the normalisation of our relations and restoration of severed links. It is also my belief that there is recognition in both countries that the pace in development of our relations can and should be accelerated. We, on our part, are ready to go ahead. However, we recognise that such acceleration and further cooperation can be possible only with the consent of both the countries.

In conclusion, I would like to state that I am convinced that good relations between the two countries of the subcontinent are in our separate and common interest and in the interest of the region as a whole. My visit to Pakistan was based on this conviction. Do not think I would be wrong if I say that the discussions I had with the Pakistani leaders have led to a better understanding and have helped in the task of removing misapprehensions, promoting greater goodwill and better understanding between the two countries. With greater contact between the two peoples and the established governments, there can grow a climate of trust and confidence in which problems can be solved and good neighbourliness can be patiently fostered. India stands ready to cooperate in the growth of such relations to the extent Pakistan is willing to go.

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS BUDGET TO PARLIAMENT

BK0102102Y Delhi ISI in English 1534 GMT 28 Feb 78 BK

[Text] A major stepup in expenditure on agriculture and other schemes subserving development of rural areas in tune with the government's commitment to a new agriculture oriented and employment intensive strategy for development including irrigation, a massive programme of dairy development, roads, rural water supply and rural and small-scale industries characterise the Janata government's second budget for 1978-79 presented by Finance Minister H.M. Patel in Parliament on February 28.

The budget also provides for higher allocations for power, oil, steel, health and family welfare, science and technology and the welfare of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.

Another important feature is regarding the utilisation of foreign exchange reserves by creating a new facility under which term lending financial institutions and public sector banks will provide rupee finance on appropriate terms to cover the import costs of approved projects. This will be in addition to the rupee finance which is already being made available to cover domestic costs. A consortium of banks will be formed to provide such loans supplementing finance by the term lending institutions.

Patel estimated total receipts in 1978-79 at rupees 170.21 billion and total expenditure at rupees 184.17 billion. At the existing rates of taxation the overall budgetary gap will be rupees 13.96 billion.

An additional burden of rupees 800 million on the central exchequer would be caused by the government decision to sanction another installment of dearness allowance to central government employees and the new policy in regard to the sugar industry. The finance minister hoped that this additional burden would be substantially accommodated within the budget estimates by economy measures which were being progressively implemented.

Non-plan revenue expenditure, other than defence, is estimated at rupees 59.08 billion, showing an increase of rupees 3.54 billion over the revised estimates for the current year. Interest payment and grants to states together account for an increase of rupees 3.84 billion.

Excluding these two items the other non-plan revenue expenditure will be less than the revised estimates for the current year. This was made possible by a rigorous scrutiny of non-plan expenditure pruning it to achieve utmost economy. Provisions for various subsidy payments have been suitably reduced. Non-plan budgetary support to public sector enterprises will also be rupees 1.27 billion less than in the current year.

Defence expenditure next year will be rupees 29.45 billion as against rupees 27.52 billion in the current year.

Gross tax revenue in 1978-79 at the existing rate of taxation is expected to amount to rupees 96.36 billion, showing an increase of rupees 7.3 billion over the revised estimates for the current year. Income tax and corporation tax receipts are expected to go up by rupees 1.15 billion and rupees 1.45 billion respectively. Union excise duties are estimated to yield rupees 3.74 billion more. The yield from customs revenues will also be more by rupees 700 million. The states' share of taxes and duties and rupees 9.29 billion will be higher by rupees 1.3 billion.

Market loans will yield rupees 16.5 billion as compared to rupees 11.83 billion in the current year. Net external assistance after providing for the payments and interest payments is estimated at rupees 11.28 billion including disbursements against new credits.

Total outlay on the annual plan of the centre, states and union territories for 1978-79 will be rupees 116.49 billion as against rupees 99.6 billion in 1977-78, representing an increase of 17 percent. Continuing schemes absorb as much as rupees 104.65 billion and of the remainder, rupees 1.5 billion has been allocated for starts on new power projects and rupees 10.34 billion for schemes in other sectors. As much as 80 percent of the latter, that is rupees 8.28 billion, would be for agriculture and other schemes subserving the development of the rural areas.

The 1978-79 budget provides rupees 72.81 billion for the central plan and for assistance towards the plan for the states and the union territories as against the previous year's provision of only rupees 57.9 billion.

A provision of rupees 27.61 billion has been made for central assistance for the plans of the states and the union territories, subplans of the Hills and Tribal Areas Northeastern Council and assistance to the Rural Electrification Corporation. The budget provides rupees 45.2 billion towards the central plan. Together with the internal and other resources of public sector undertakings the central plan would be rupees 56.64 billion in 1978-79 as against rupees 49.39 billion in 1977-78. Inclusive of their own resources the plans of the states and union territories would add up to rupees 59.85 billion as compared to rupees 50.21 billion in 1977-78.

For the first time in many years the plans of the states and the union territories together would be larger than the central plan. The stepup in the outlay of state plans as a whole is 19 percent while the plans of the union territories will go up by 27 percent. The central plans would increase by 15 percent only. Patel said that this reflected "a reordering of our plan priorities in favour of agriculture, irrigation, power and rural development, all of which figure prominently in the state plans and in some measures a shift toward greater decentralisation in planning."

The plan outlay for agriculture has been raised by rupees 4.9 billion to rupees 17.54 billion for 1978-79. The outlay on command area development goes up from rupees 490 million in 1977-78 to rupees 820 million in 1978-79 and that on small farmers development agencies in the central plan from rupees 450 million to rupees 1.15 billion.

The outlay on the drought prone area programme has been raised from rupees 510 million in 1977-78 to rupees 760 million in 1978-79 and the desert development programme is being allocated rupees 200 million as against only rupees 60 million in the previous year.

Patel said that it was proposed to launch a massive programme of dairy development--Operation Flood II--at a cost of nearly rupees 5 billion as part of the new strategy for the rural development. This would raise the nutritional standards of the people, generate employment for about 4 million people in the first phase and augment the incomes in rural areas.

The outlay on fisheries in the central plan has been raised from rupees 330 million in 1977-78 to rupees 610 million in 1978-79. This would strengthen basic infrastructural facilities and augment the incomes of fishermen. The outlay on rural roads in the states has been stepped up to rupees 1.15 billion as against the current year's outlay of rupees 850 million. The provision for rural water supply in the states plans in 1978-79 would be rupees 1.05 billion as against rupees 700 million in the current year. This would be supplemented by a special provision in the central plan to the extent of rupees 600 million. The finance minister said that the promise he had made last year that the allocation for rural water supply and rural roads would be enhanced had been redeemed. He went further and extended an assurance to the states that if these programmes were implemented effectively he would be prepared to increase these allocations. For the development of rural and small industries which improve the opportunities for gainful employment in rural areas the total allocation has been increased from rupees 1.45 billion in 1977-78 to rupees 2.19 billion in 1978-79.

The outlays on the programmes for the welfare of scheduled castes and other backward classes has been stepped up from rupees 860 million in 1977-78 to rupees 1.25 billion in 1978-79. In the states' plans outlay for tribal development will go up from rupees 2.58 billion to rupees 3.43 billion in 1978-79. Additionally special central assistance for tribal subplans will be stepped up from rupees 550 million to rupees 700 million.

The outlay on major and medium irrigation projects for 1978-79 will be rupees 11.66 billion, as against rupees 10.35 billion in 1978-79, as against rupees 2.6 billion in 1977-78. [Sentence as received] It will be supplemented by loans from the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation. It was expected that an additional irrigation potential of 3 million hectares will be created during 1978-79 as against 2.23 million hectares in the previous year.

Patel said that recurrence of power shortages cannot be allowed to hold up our progress and, therefore, the plan for 1978-79 envisages a massive addition to generating capacity and the development of the transmission and distribution system. Works and schemes with a total capacity of about 30,000 mw would be in different stages of execution in the coming year. Of this, 3,500 mw will be commissioned in 1978-79 as against 200 mw expected in the current year. The total generating capacity in the country will then be raised to 29,000 mw.

In the central sector a fresh start is being made for a number of projects such as the Korba superthermal project, the Ramagundam superthermal project, the power station including the second mine out at Neyeli, the Badarpur thermal station stage three, the Bokaro thermal station of DVC and the pumped storage plant of Panchet Hill. Provision has also been made for taking up new 400 km transmission lines in the central sector associated with the superthermal station and in the states.

Work on load despatch stations was also being accelerated. A sum of rupees 2.44 billion has been provided in the central plan for power development. The outlays in the plans of states and union territories added up to rupees 19.53 billion. The provision for 1978-79 for the power sector would be rupees 22.17 billion compared to rupees 19.25 billion in the current year. The provision of rural electrification has been raised from 1.95 billion to rupees 2.97 billion.

As there can be no slackening of efforts toward self-sufficiency in crude oil, a provision of rupees 6.3 billion is being made for the oil sector.

In steel a provision of rupees 5.63 billion is being made in 1978-79 as against rupees 5.11 billion in the previous year. The requirements of the Bhilai and Bokaro expansion programmes, the cold rolled grain oriented plant at Rourkela and the Salem steel plant have been met. The Kudremukh project is being provided with rupees 2.13 billion as against rupees 1.42 billion in the previous year.

That the government's commitment to a vigorous nationwide programme of family welfare is firm and clear is indicated by the provision of rupees 3.93 billion in 1978-79 for health and family welfare as against rupees 2.84 billion in 1977-78. Funds have also been provided for expansion of health cover of rural areas, including the scheme for community health workers.

Outlay on science and technology has gone up from rupees 1.79 billion in 1977-78 to rupees 2.2 billion in 1978-79, showing an increase of 23 percent. The Indian Council for Agricultural Research has been given rupees 510 million as against rupees 370 million in the previous year. The Indian satellite project (INSAT-I) has been provided rupees 230 million in 1978-79.

In the revised estimate for 1977-78, the revenue from income and coproration taxes shows a shortfall of rupees 360 million and union excise duties are expected to yield rupees 1.4 billion less than the budget estimates of rupees 23.36 billion and rupees 45.93 billion respectively. This was mainly due to the slower growth of industrial production in certain sectors.

The yield from customs revenues and interest tax on the other hand was expected to show an improvement of rupees 520 million and rupees 160 million over the budget estimates of rupees 17.28 billion and rupees 930 million respectively.

After allowing for the states' share of taxes and duties (rupees 17.99 billion), the central share of the tax revenue will be less than the budget estimate by rupees 1 billion.

Market loans in 1977-78 would exceed the budget figures of rupees 10 billion by rupees 1.83 billion because of large deposit accretions with banks.

The net receipts on account of external assistance will be lower than the budget estimate of rupees 10.52 billion by rupees 2.75 billion. Non-plan revenue expenditure excluding defence was likely to exceed the budget estimate of rupees 54.36 billion by rupees 1.18 billion.

Of this an increase of rupees 840 million was under export promotion due mainly to a spillover of payment pertaining to 1976-77 and the introduction in the currency year of a system of quicker disbursement of assistance to exporters. Except for this increase, the non plan revenue expenditure was kept practically within the original budget despite additional burdens like a rise in the procurement price of paddy and wheat, reduction in the price of urea, the policy of pricing fertilisers, additional instalment of dearness allowance to central government employees, increase in interest rates on provident funds, the incentive bonus scheme and relief to pensioners.

Patel said this was a welcome departure from the trend in the past several years of a steep increase in the non-plan expenditure. "We have been able to achieve it by enforcing the utmost economy and pruning in essential expenditures to the maximum extent possible." Revised estimates show that plan expenditure from the budget on petroleum, fertilisers, steel and telecommunications is going to be substantially less than in the budget. This was mainly due to slippages in the delivery schedules of machinery and equipment and in civil construction. Also a few public sector undertakings were able to generate more internal resources and therefore needed less budgetary support for financing their plan outlay.

In 1977-78, according to the revised estimates, the total outlay on agriculture including rural development is expected to increase by rupees 120 million and plan expenditure on health will be higher by rupees 130 million. New schemes and accelerated work on ongoing schemes, especially those linked to steel and power plants, account for an increase of rupees 130 million in the outlay on the coal sector.

Stating that the budgetary outlay on central plan schemes was expected to be rupees 2.33 billion less than the original budget provision of rupees 39.78 billion, Patel said that he was not at all happy at the pace at which the expenditure on plan projects took place. What was needed was a drastic change in the organisation and it was proposed to devote much greater attention to this question in the coming months, he said.

The total budgetary deficit in 1977-78 is now expected to be of the order of 9.75 billion against the original estimates of rupees 840 million. Of this, rupees 4.14 billion is directly accounted for by additional assistance to the states on account of their deficits due to improvident financial policies of the previous governments in states. Additionally, a number of states suffered serious damage on account of cyclones and floods and had to be assisted. Patel said that though it was his duty to assist the new state governments so as to enable them to start on a reasonable clean slate it was now his expectation that they will manage their affairs hereafter in such a way that they did not have to take recourse of unauthorised overdrafts. A sum of rupees 1.9 billion was also accounted for by importation of fertilisers. By this process foreign exchange has converted into a valuable fertiliser stock without adding to the money supply.

Patel said that despite "what seemingly appears to be a major deficit, the government's prudent policies of supply, management and credit restraint have controlled any possible adverse effect and indeed we have ended the year with no inflation at all."

Budget at a glance: 1977-78 budget revenue receipts 95.42 billion, expenditure 94.87 billion, expenditure 97.43 billion, difference (plus) 350 million.

1977-78 revised revenue receipts 97.78 billion, expenditure 97.43 billion, difference (plus) 350 million.

1978-79 budget revenue receipts 104.61 billion (plus) 3.21 billion, expenditure 108.99 billion, difference (minus) 4.38 billion (plus) 3.21 billion.

1977-78 budget capital receipts 59.42 billion, expenditure 60.81 billion, difference (minus) 1.39 billion.

1977-78 revised capital receipts 55.91 billion, expenditure 66.01 billion, difference (minus) 10.1 billion.

1978-79 budget capital receipts 65.6 billion (plus) 250 million, expenditure 75.18 billion, difference (minus) 9.58 billion (plus) 250 million.

Total 1977-78 budget receipts 154.84 billion, expenditure 155.68 billion, overall deficit 840 million.

1977-78 revised receipts 153.69 billion, expenditure 163.44 billion, overall deficit 9.75 billion.

1978-79 budget receipts 170.21 billion (plus) 3.46 billion, expenditure 184.17 billion, overall deficit 13.96 billion (minus) 3.46 million plus uncovered deficit 10.5 billion.

JANATA EMERGES AS LEADER IN ASSAM ASSEMBLY ELECTION

BK011618Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The last result from Asssm has come in. Mr Dhani Ram Rongpi of the Congress has retained his seat from Baithalangso constituency.

The final party position is: Janata--53; Congress--26; Congress-I--8; CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxists]--11; CPI--5; PTCA--4; RCPI [Revolutionary Communist Party of India]--4; CPI-ML [Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist]--1; SUCI--1; and Independents--13.

PAKISTAN

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN EXPLAINS BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY

BK011602Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Mar 78 BK

[Text] An official spokesman said in Islamabad this afternoon that a 1-month ban on closed door political activities has been imposed because this privilege has been misused on one pretext or another and there have been threats to law and order, and incidents of lawlessness have increased recently, especially during the last month. This left the government with no alternative but to impose the ban in order to normalize the situation.

The spokesman said the privilege was misused in various forms including use of force, intimidation, damage to private property, disturbances in educational institutions and interference in official institutions. This trend became evident on a large-scale after the promulgation of Martial Law Regulation No 24 [allowing limited political activities] in October 1977. Provocative statements were made, processions held and threats put forth by leaders of one political party against the other. Aggressive and provocative acts were committed and deliberate attempts were made to spread fear, alarm and discontent and to promote the seeds of hatred toward the government. Not only this, violence was used [words indistinct]. Canals were breached and the water supply system tampered with. Attempts were also made to tamper with the railway tracks.

The spokesman said that a section of the press had also misinterpreted the meaning of freedom of the press and used this freedom not only to say anything they liked, but to deliberately distort the facts and print false statements.

The spokesman said that the government considers these activities as deliberate attempts to disrupt law and order in the country, to cause confusion and create an impression that anarchy and lawlessness prevails in the country.

The government has been watching the situation carefully and it has been left with no alternative but to impose a ban on political activities for a limited period.

The spokesman said that this measure will help in cooling down sentiments and will insure that the law and order situation is not used for political ends.

The spokesman said that the government will deal with all matters related to law and order on their merit, because it does not consider law and order to be a part of politics. He said that the restrictions imposed by the new regulations will insure (?decent) and wise conduct on the part of politicians. This will also insure the normal functioning of professional bodies like bar councils, bar associations, trade unions, schools and colleges free from external political pressures and interference.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said the political leaders have been cautioned from time to time and the chief martial law administrator has emphasized the maintenance of law and order. The martial law administrator also made it clear in the last few weeks that the maintenance of law and order will be kept insulated from politics.

The spokesman said: Had this situation otherwise been allowed to go on, it would have resulted in volcanic events.

The spokesman added that the government has information that there will be further attempts to disrupt the law and order situation in the country.

Answering a question from a foreign correspondent, the spokesman said that there was no press censorship.

In reply to another question, he said: As is evident from the provision of Martial Law Regulation No. 33, this restriction will last until the 31st of this month.

HAQ APPOINTS HABIB ADVISER FOR FINANCE, FOREIGN TRADE

BK011058Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 1 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has appointed Mr Hamid D. Habib as special adviser of finance, economic affairs and external trade. He has the status of federal minister.

Mr Hamid D. Habib will discharge his responsibility as special adviser in addition to his present duties as chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau.

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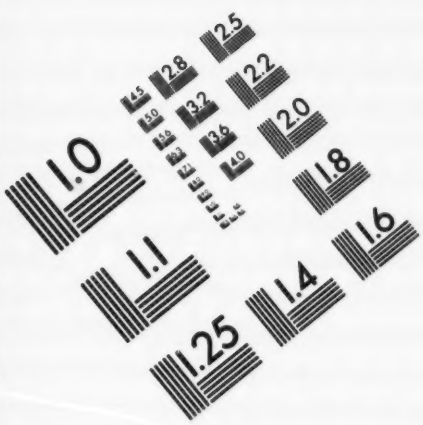

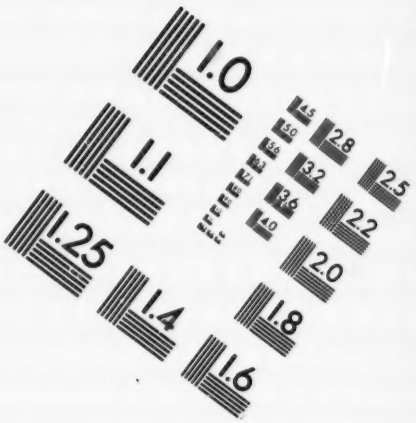

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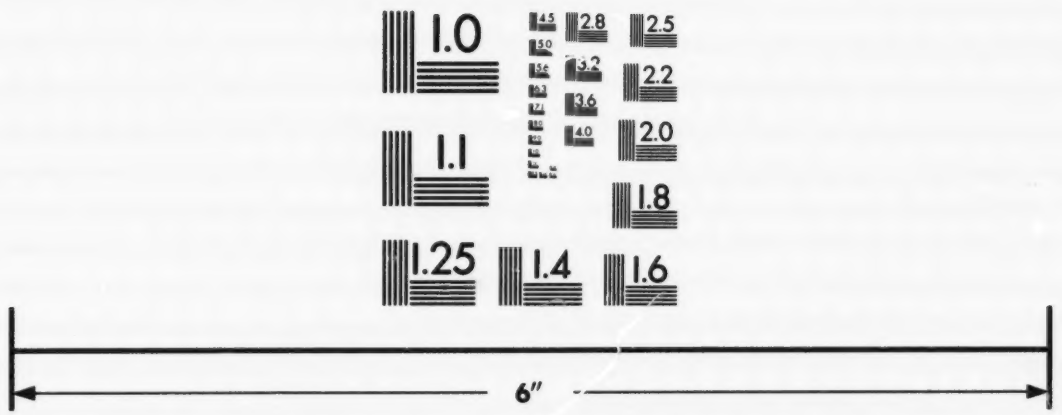

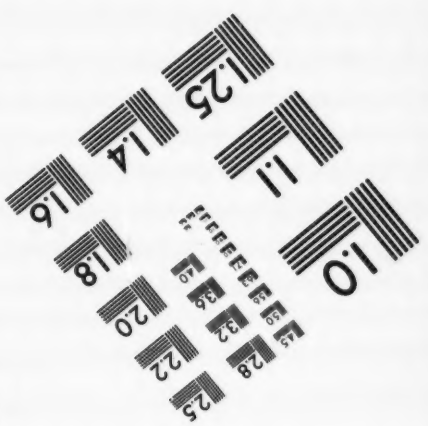

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